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MODERN GRATITUDE,

IN

Five Numbers:

ADDRESSED TO

RICHARD RAYNALL KEENE, ESQ.

CONCERNING A FAMILY MARRIAGE.

BY LUTHER MARTIN, ESQ.

OF MARYLAND.

LENOX LIBRARY
NEW YORK

MODERN GRATITUDE.

" HIC NIGER EST, HUNC, TU ROMANE CAVETO."

His soul is as black as his face, Americans, beware of him.

(No. I.)

HAD RICHARD RAYNALL KEENE, Esq. contented himself with having poisoned the mind and perverted the principles—with having eradicated every sense of duty, and every sentiment of affection to her father, from the heart of a girl of fifteen, who *was* the joy and pride of that father; had he been satisfied with having forever destroyed her happiness and blasted eternally all her prospects in life, than whom but few of her sex had fairer; nay, had he after this noble achievement been satisfied with circulating the most unfounded falsehood, in order, at my expence, to attempt some little extenuation of the infamy of his conduct, I should most probably have left him, and all the worthless *herd*, whether in high life or in low, who have been his coadjutors, unnoticed.—And *sick* as I am, *even at my soul*, with the *folly* and *villainy* of mankind, fearless of suffering in the good opinion of those, who really know me, and at this time of life not very anxious concerning the sentiments of others, should have devoted him and the unfortunate victim of his wiles, to experience, at their leisure, all those miseries, with which base ingratitude and filial impiety are not unusually accompanied: But I have found that his infernal ma-

lignity cannot, it appears, be possibly satiated, while happiness is enjoyed by any being dear to, or connected with me, and therefore that he has studiously sought to engage in a quarrel with him two of the most amiable and worthy of men, the one the maternal uncle* of my children, the other, my son-in-law†; the first of whom doated on, and the latter of whom loved with more than fraternal affection their infatuated relation, until unparalleled insolence and rudeness rendered her totally unworthy even of their respect!—Yes, I have found that those two gentlemen, who are deservedly as dear to me as my life, have been marked out by him as the victims of that *murderous* skill in the use of the pistol, on which he values himself; and that challenges have been sent by him to each of them, because, though they have spoken of him with more tenderness than he deserves, they could not treat him as a relation, nor speak of him as a gentleman.

I therefore feel it a *sacred duty* to *justify them*. If there must be another victim at the altar of ingratitude and impiety, I offer myself?—After he has murdered *my peace*, I feel no anxiety as to my *person*. But if he wishes to add that apex to his crimes, he must assail me in the *dark*, or *behind my back*, for *one look* from me would *wither every nerve in his body!*

In the fulfilment of this duty, I am obliged, without any reserve from delicacy, even to a child, who once had in me a parent, than whom none ever lived more indulgent, more affectionate, nor more tender, and by whom she would have been ultimately saved from ruin, but from the *excess* of that tenderness—to give the public a variety of letters which have passed between that man and myself, with just so much narrative as will be sufficient to connect incidents and render the letters completely intelligible.

It was, I believe, some time in the year 1798, when this hero of my story first came to the city of Baltimore, and in a short time after his arrival was engaged by D. B. Esq. who resided a few miles distant, as a private tutor to his children, most of whom were daughters and young. There he remained until, I believe, some time in January or February in the year 1799, and then again returned to this city.—

* James Cresap, Esq. of Alleghany county, in Maryland.

† Mr. Hector Scott, merchant, New-York.

Soon after which, he was particularly mentioned to me by the honourable judge Winchester, then a practising lawyer, as a young gentleman, who was solicitous to qualify himself for the profession of the law, but who had not resources for the intermediate expence. That his plan had been, while acquiring legal knowledge, to act in the capacity of a teacher in some private family, where too great a portion of his time would not be thereby engrossed, and in the vicinity of this place, that he might have an opportunity to procure books; that in pursuance of such plan he had for some time been thus engaged in Mr. B's family, but that finding his duties as a teacher too much interfered with the obtaining legal knowledge, and would too long procrastinate his entrance on a profession to which he looked forward for respectability and support, he had left that family and was anxious to have the benefit of studying law in the office of some gentleman, who would not expect compensation; and that he also wished to obtain board at some place near the city, as in the city board was too dear, and from whence he could conveniently attend the office.

I instantly informed Mr. W. that Mr. Keene was welcome to the use of my office, which was then in Calvert-Street, and that if he could live in the same batchelor style, in which I then lived, and did not think my house too remote, he was welcome also to consider my table as his own. I then lived at my house on my place adjoining Baltimore about a mile from my office, with no other family than my sister and domestic servants. My daughters then lived in town with Madam Lacombe. From Mr. W. he received information of my offer, and soon became an inmate of my office and my house, and in the first was furnished with a bed in the upstair room as long as my office remained in that street. He was *thus* connected with me until late in that year, when I removed into Howard-Street, and had my office in one room of the house I had there taken. During the year, while I lived in Howard-Street, Mr. Keene read in my office and boarded and lodged in my house. After that year had expired, I rented the house in which I now live, in North Harrison-Street, and moving thereto my family and my office, Mr. Keene as one of my family removed, and continued with me in the same manner as before, while I was in Howard-Street, until about the 5th of Janua-

ry, 1801. At that time I brought to Baltimore, from New-York, my two daughters, who had resided there, and at New-Brunswick, a little more than a year. Until this period they had been very little in my family after Mr. Keene first had been introduced into it.

Upon their return, Mr. Keene no longer lodged in my house, being informed by me it would be inconvenient, but enjoyed the benefit of my office and my table as before.

These are all the circumstances I at present think necessary to state preparatory to the introduction of the following letter, dated the 22d of February in that year. This letter will explain more fully what were his views in visiting Baltimore, and certain further occurrences which had tended to his introduction to me and my family, and shew in strong terms what was his situation at that time.

The letter is as follows—

DEAR SIR,

Notwithstanding your *aversion from private and personal communications*, yet on the present occasion, when a deep concern in one whom you have long favoured with your friendly notice, gives rise to the request, 'tis hoped that a few moments your attention will be bestowed on him.

In the dearth of parental aid, I was furnished with the means of a collegiate education by the bounty of a brother, who, at an early period of life entered into the church and derived his only funds from that source. About the time of my graduation, he sustained the misfortune of a ruptured blood-vessel in his breast which obliged him to relinquish his professional duties and therewith the means both of my support and his own. He soon after visited the country upon the Ohio and Missisippi for the benefit of his health, and I came to this place, in the hope and expectation of being assisted by a *Mother's Brother* (1) of ample fortune in realizing the prospect I had fondly indulged in of qualifying myself for a station at the bar. This hope and expectation were, how-

1. This is the same gentleman alluded to by Robert Goodloe Harper, Esq. in his letter of the 12th ult. to general Hamilton, where he says, "*his Uncle* is one of the most respectable men in this place, with whom he (Keene) is on a friendly footing." As to his respectability I most perfectly subscribe; but as to the *friendly* footing, on which he and Keene are, I know a little more than Mr. Harper; he has not yet got the *clue!* but more of this in its proper place.

ever, *disappointed on the very first hour after my arrival*, by the *most unequivocal refusal of assistance*, notwithstanding my brother's *eventual* guarantee of reimbursement. I then was *constrained* to enter into an establishment, which ere long became *too embarrassing* to be retained. I accordingly relinquished it, though of *my own accord*, and for reasons no way *incompatible* with *integrity* and *honor*. Upon that relinquishment, however, *I found my situation truly distressing*. Raw and unexperienced from the walls of a college, (2) *I was in a strange place without money and without friends*, and *without too, an opportunity of making either*—— And he by whom I had been accustomed to be estranged from want, so far from rendering his ordinary aid was *lingering* in a *distant place* under the *pressure of disease*, with *scarce the ability to procure even the common comforts of life*. My desire, however, to give effect to the professional establishment that I had contemplated seemed to increase with the difficulty of success. *My situation was gloomy in the extreme. But in this situation when I was scarce known to you; and when I am sure you could have been but little, if at all, acquainted with any favourable pretentions that I might have conceived attached to me in that situation I say, and under these circumstances you received me into your office and family.*— My heart was penetrated with gratitude: (3) *but its expressions you never wanted, and I never troubled you with them. (4) My sentations*, however, were not the *less glowing* and *sincere for concealment*. The *sequel evinced the refined humanity, benevolence and generosity, which the commencement of your conduct indicated. I felt every thing in return that human gratitude was capable of inspiring: and under the influence of its enthusiastic inspirations my life itself should have ever held a willing, however insufficient a sacrifice to have served either you or yours. (5)* But *over and above the*

2. Not quite so raw and unexperienced, neither! Few men have left the walls of a college more versed in art and intrigue.

3. With what kind of gratitude *his* heart can be penetrated let his subsequent conduct shew!

4. I *never did wish for even his thanks*—I never *hoped for*, or *expected any return* or *compensation* of *any kind* from him---but I confess I hoped to have been *secure* from *receiving at his hand the greatest of injuries!!*

5. In full proof of this we need only instance his late conduct in New-York, where he has sought to raise his hand against the lives of two most amiable men, and to embitter the happines of their families, because they were *connected with*, and *dear to me!!*

suggestions of *gratitude*, I found *my veneration for your goodness excited, when, from my intimate acquaintance with you, I came to understand the extensive scale of liberality and philanthropy upon which you acted; and found myself only a solitary link in the lengthened chain of beings, whom your benefactions were ever employed in cherishing.*

In *you* was to be found *one person* of that *limited class* indeed, who, *independently on* the *prejudices* of the *world* and the *requisitions of self-interest*, could practice the golden rule of "*doing as you would be done by.*"

Under my impressions thus wrought, I considered *your smiles* as the *smiles of a Tutelary Genius*, and *your displeasure* I contemplated as *one of the first earthly objects of my deprecation.* (6) Unfortunately, however of late, *that displeasure*, though *generally disguised*, I have *occasionally seen too plain* for misapprehension. Whatever may be the cause of it I *know* not; and am thoroughly unconscious of meriting it. I am well aware that you might properly deem me more inattentive to the office than I ought to have been. I am conscious that, from imperious, and in some instance most unrighteous, causes of annoyance my mind has been too much distracted, however apparent composure may have been affected, not to have committed neglect toward you and of my own interest. But such neglect I apprehend cannot but be a disproportionate cause to the effect of which I speak.

For it to have been suggested to you that I ever expressed myself or acted in any wise other than consistently with the profoundest respect and sincerest regard for you, I hold to be too vile a calumny for any person whosoever to have committed. Such a suggestion would be so directly and so notoriously opposite to the truth, that it seems impossible that any person, however depraved, should have attempted it. If strangely, however, such suggestions should have been made, though I should regret the occasion, yet I should consider myself obliged by an opportunity of defence, by means of which I could safely pledge myself, to detect its falsehood and injustice; not only negatively by contrary declarations of every person that has ever heard me utter your name, par-

6. Is it within human conception, that the man who wrote this letter, had deliberately, *even before that time*, formed his infernal plan to destroy my peace, and the harmony and happiness of my family. Yet that undoubtedly is the fact.

ticularly the families of Messrs. D. Harris, H. Nichols, and P. Rogers, in which I am more particularly intimate (and all of which know my sentiments of you well) but positively likewise by the express recantation of my accuser himself. Yet I *must repeat* that I *cannot think it possible for so wanton and cruel an accuser to exist. Conjecture, however, though reluctantly points to the cause, in question, and solves my doubts. (7)*

I must just premise, that I *intend* nothing like reproach or censure, in relation to any body.

Some time ago, an *affair of delicacy* between a *particular family well known to you*, and myself, gave rise to some explanations between the *head* of the family and myself. Him as being principally concerned I communicated with freely; and with him alone—and received assurances of his satisfaction. *Two subordinate members* of the family thought proper to assume an agency on the occasion perfectly intemperate, and by far greater than that of the principal himself: but I did not consider myself bound to make any explanations to them, and none did I make. I took every step, however, that candour and self respect would admit of, to evince my regard for the feelings and wishes of the principal; which from the uniform respect that I have experienced from him, must in a great measure have been duly estimated. Austerity and contumely characterised the conduct of the *two branches* towards me, which forbade my respectful notice of them. My deportment, however, was neither more nor less, than reserved. A spirit of hostility I forebore to indulge, or *at least to express.* At length, however, upon the authority of three persons of the first respectability, and one at least of them, entitled both by nature and habit to be more interested than those two branches, on the occasion in question, and each of whose names could be easily mentioned, if it were necessary—upon such authority I say, I was informed of the bitterest hostility and most cruel aspersion, of me by these two branches; so as to evince a settled determination, confirmed by an express avowal, that I should be *forced* to leave Baltimore. My crime you perhaps will involuntary say, must have been great; *and a suspicion arises that you have been*

7. If "*conjecture pointing to the cause*" had "*solved his doubts,*" we should naturally suppose that *this* "conjecture" had become *certainty*, and therefore that he might have spared the preceding page or more.

giving protection to a monster. (8) My "crime," however, I cannot but believe was incapable of casting a shade upon the purest innocence. (9) *On no other occasion could I think of troubling you. My respect for your opinion is without bounds*—to vindicate myself then and not to cast censure upon others, permit me to refer you to a letter to the principal herein spoken of, developing my every action and thought; and giving a true sketch of the unfortunate affair before mentioned. (10)

Upon the representation just spoken of, *my resentment was deeply roused*; and in the glow of resentment *I sent a remonstrance* against the conduct I had been informed of, *charged with considerable asperity.* My resentment was, what any person, perhaps, under similar circumstances would have felt; and the expression of it which was more to prevent *future* mal-treatment, than it was vindictive, would I am confident, when fully understood, find an ample apology *in the organization of your nature.* (11) This *remonstrance without explanation, I have reason to believe has been charged as an item of offence: and I cannot resist the impression that the subject has been mentioned to you, accompanied with partial statements only.* I do not however undertake to say, if such statement should have been made to you, that any motive to injure me in your estimation gave rise to it. The circumstance however injurious to me, might have been mentioned to you by way of *apology only for declining an intercourse with your family (as my membership therein was known) which might probably have been proposed by you since the return of the young ladies.* If such be the case, I am sorry that fairness and candour did not sanction the representation given you—for then I am sure *prejudice would never have been excited against me as seems now to be the case.*

8 It will be found in the sequel, that no man could appear more sensible than himself of the epithets he merited, from time to time, on account of his conduct. I did, indeed, *suspect* that I was protecting a "*Monster;*" the event has convinced me of the truth of that suspicion!

9. The sequel will prove that what he calls "pure innocence," is of so *black* a hue, as not to admit of many "shades in its colour.

10. The copy of a long letter which he had written to D. B. Esq, some time before, but which had not quite the same effect on my mind to convince me of his "pure innocence" as he seemed to expect.

11. Never was there a villain on earth, but who could find the same plea for all his crimes!

My supposed grievances, however, which gave rise to the remonstrance in question, I shall by no means attempt to trouble you with a detail of—not however that I should have any thing to fear. But I had sooner be the looser by silence than to carry recollection back through the scene of unfriendly passions, and to trouble others too much with uninteresting relations. The sway of angry passions is ever to be deprecated ; and the wounds of sensibility thereby inflicted, so far from being made to bleed afresh by any review thereof, should receive our endeavours for being healed into convalescence. (12) And so sensible am I of the value of an *undisturbed and peaceful mind*, that I am sure, that not only does self-interest prompt me to secure its advantages to myself, but my *disposition also inclines me to contribute to the enjoyment thereof by others. (13)* A *constitutional impetuosity connected with a liveliness of feelings renders me impatient of imposition and impels me to retribution. (14)* But every day's experience and observation serve more and more to convince me that as well policy as a sense of honor and self respect are better gratified by the preservation of equinimity, and indifference towards the ordinary ebulitions of pride, malice or defamation, than by any resentful or retributive notice to counteract them. (15)

As unimportant as I have been and therefore in a great measure if not totally entitled to an exemption from observation ; yet I am *forced* to believe that every little frivolity or intemperate levity of a young man, that has escaped me, has by *two* families in this place, but particularly the *one (16)* that is foreign from this letter, been warped and distorted into outrage and criminality : and where any materials at all have been wanting whereon to work and improve, entire structures of guilt have been fabricated and charged on me. But next to the consciousness that the severest enmity, dare not pass the unfair and disgraceful limits of vague abuse, ridicule and innuendoes, and confront me

12. Quite *Jeffersonian*. How great wits will jump ! This was written *before* the inaugural speech.

13. Better and better !—He *certainly* has taken much pains to contribute to the enjoyment of a peaceful mind by myself and all who are dear to me !

14. This sentence ought to have run thus, "but a malignity of heart renders me ungrateful for benefits, and impels me to return evil for good."

15. What a torrent of philosophical honey and oil has he poured forth !

16. The same respectable family, the friendship of which Mr. Harper has represented him to enjoy, in his letter to general Hamilton.

in the open field of specific allegation, I derive consolation from the consideration, that *honest ambition and enterprize*, (17) particularly in young men, will always, as by experience shewn, excite the envy and malice of little souls. Experience, however, is generally kind enough to shew in return, that like clouds which intercept the morning sun and then become scattered and dispelled before the effulgence of his meridian beams; so too may the suggestions of malignity and falshood for a while, obscure the brilliancy of truth, and then be constrained to flee before the triumphant splendour of her rays. (18)

From *two* families only, has any annoyance proceeded against me: however, I make a *wide difference* between them in *favour of the one which I have all along alluded to.* If this latter family or *two branches*, were to take the trouble to examine dispassionately the proofs I have given of *my claims to their respectful notice*, (19) and appreciate them duly, and become impressed with the truth of the maxim, that a state of conciliation and good will is ever preferable to a state of unfriendliness and animosity between any parties, however great their self supposed superiority over each other, or however great their impotency or insignificancy reciprocally understood; in such case I say, I am sure that a good understanding between them and myself, such as subsists between the *head* or *principal* and myself, might again take place—which I am free to confess I should willingly contribute to, and take satisfaction in.

And if such an event should possibly result from any communication that may have been made to you, I shall then have occasion to be glad of instead of being sorry for the ex-parte statements which I have supposed you to have received. In the mean time, however, those statements I must sincerely deplore.

I have now, Sir, with as much brevity as justice to myself would allow of, *taken that view of my situation* as well

17 & 18. By "*honest*" ambition it fairly is to be presumed he means *fortune hunting*—and by "Enterprize" success in deceiving and making a dupe to him of a child! Whether his *sun* will ever shine with such effulgence as to dispel the clouds with which envy and malice, as he, I suppose, will name them, may obscure his merit, the *future* is to prove!

19. I suppose he means his diploma received at Princeton college—and the certificate of his being a member of one of the societies of that college!!!

prior as *posterior* to *my association with you, that must evince the high sense I entertain for you, and my profound and sincere respect for your opinion.* I have also stated my belief of your unfavourable opinion or prejudice against me, and of the cause of it. I have now, in conformity with this belief, when I am constrained to look upon myself, while living in your family, *as a barrier to an intercourse therewith by persons, alluded to before, whom you would wish to entertain,* to add, that a sense of propriety, of honor and of duty, warns me off. In compliance then with this sense, Sir, *and that only, I take my most grateful leave of your hospitable board.* In taking this leave, I hope you will do me the justice to believe that nothing like pique or resentment influences me in the least thereto. *If I know myself aright, even under circumstances of grievance, I should even then, I say, hold myself incapable of resentment towards him, however he should be mistaken towards me, and however he might act under such mistake, who is entitled to, and who possesses my warmest gratitude and reverence; and who, I must subjoin, shall in every practicable case, in every possible vicissitude find it my pride to square my conduct with the sentiments herein expressed. (20)*

In thus withdrawing from your family I use no affectation to conceal that difficulties on my part will ensue.

My only patrimony ever consisted of one little servant, whom I still retain. It might have been more by legal distribution, but I formally relinquished all further claims for the benefit of the offspring more helpless than myself. (21) A particular gentleman (22) professed a willingness to make necessary supplies to me for the time of my student ship. He advanced at different times 120 dollars, *and then ceased,* from causes which I never undertook to make the least enquiry about, *though it became manifest that ungenerous influence was used for that purpose (it being known in a hostile*

20. " Fine words, I wonder where he stole them." That he did not *know himself* " *aright*;" or did not choose to speak of himself according to his knowledge, I have had sufficient proof. I have become the object of his resentment, and obloquey not from any instance of grievance towards him, but merely because I endeavoured to prevent this mirror of *professional* gratitude from injuring myself and family !

21. This I doubt, but have not thought it worth my trouble to enquire into its truth.

22. The present judge Winchester.

quarter, that *my only pecuniary supplies were derived from that gentleman.)*

A moderate prize, however, in last winter's lottery came seasonably to my succour (23) and has furnished my *only* supplies ever since, with *some small loans.* As *under these circumstances it would be difficult for me to give the customary fee that might else where be expected, I should be happy in being allowed the further use of your office.* (24) *

so that no assistance can I now have from him. (25) A worthy and reverend uncle has amply the *will*, but none of the *ability*, to go *beyond his own support.* But a *strong additional* reason, for soliciting the further use of your office arises from the consideration that *my* departure *therefrom might be attributed to improper and unjust causes, highly injurious to me.* Permit me then *to repeat my desire to continue in the office till I shall be admitted*, which will be as soon as I can possibly stand any chance for it.

Be pleased to pardon, Sir, the trouble which I have thus given you, which has proceeded only from an upright and well meaning solicitude; and consider me with the most perfect respect,

Your grateful, and obedient servant,

R. R. KEENE.

LUTHER MARTIN.

February 29, 1801.

N. B. The letter accompanying this I would thank you to return into the drawer of the table. (26)

It now becomes necessary to enlarge in some degree, on preceding transactions. As I have generally understood, and as I believe, soon after Mr. Keene was introduced into the family of Mr. B. he, without consulting her father, her mother was no more, fixed on an amiable daughter of Mr. B. a child, then under his instructions, as a proper object of

23. I am ignorant of the truth of this assertion.

24. Here is the omission of a passage in his letter, for the sake of a person, very amiable, whom I highly respect and esteem: It had no connexion with the subject only it went to shew continuing reasons why he could receive no aid from his brother.

25. His brother whom he had mentioned in the first part of his letter.

26. The copy of Mr. B's letter, which I returned as he wished.

his future aggrandizement, well knowing that her father though he had a number of children, was very wealthy.—That he exerted all his arts to ingraciate himself with the little girl, and to obtain her affections. That this coming to the knowledge of Mr. B. that gentleman, at once, declared his total disapprobation ; and in consequence Mr. Keene left his family, with a solemn promise to give up forever all thoughts of forming a connexion with his daughter, and to cease all intercourse with her.

Mr. Keene then came to town, and was, as I have already stated, soon after introduced into my house. Nearly at the same time that Mr. Keene left the house of Mr. B. this gentleman's eldest daughter was married to Mr. T. of this city, and came here to live. (27) The sister of Mrs. T. was, as might be expected, frequently with her ; of this Mr. Keene availed himself, and though he could not visit her in Mr. T's family, yet knowing where she visited, he would obtrude himself on the same families ; and, by keeping up an intercourse with servants, could learn where she was to drink tea, and consequently meet her at the same table. He also was in the habit of endeavouring clandestinely to send, by servants or others, (and there never will be wanting worthless wretches of *both* sexes ready to assist in the basest of attemps) letters to the young lady, with a view, if possible, to excite her compassion and to enkindle, or keep alive her affection :—He also, was at all times ready, whenever she walked out, to meet her in the streets, and be her companion, if he could be permitted. All which conduct her amiable and respectable sister, from a regard to her father and to the dear child herself, discountenanced, and occasionally censured.

In consequence of which, Mr. Keene thought proper to write her a letter, of which I will at present merely say it was such, which no man, who would wish to be thought a gentleman, ought to have written to *any* woman, much less to a lady so truly respectable and amiable as the one to whom it was addressed. Keene himself says it was written in the " glow of resentment, and was charged with considerable asperity ;" from this the public may judge of it, when it is also stated that he knows no motive of conduct, but in some form or other, *self-gratification.*

27. Mr. and Mrs. T. are the persons whom Keene in his letter to me calls the " two subordinate members of the family."

He says it was " more to prevent future mal-treatment than it was vindictive." I can only say if that was his design, he might as well have told us, that, in consequence of what *had* passed, he had attempted to murder her peace, her happiness, her respectability—and that if she persisted to oppose his views, it was his design she should suppose he would murder her *person*.

This letter, as he suspected, had been shewn to me—I am not the only father whose soul has been tortured by that wretch !—It was shewn to me by a parent, whose soul was agonized on the occasion !

Here, with propriety, it may be asked, " Why did you not instantly expel that wretch from your house !".

I have to apologize for one of the most censurable actions of my life.

I deeply felt the injury done to those who were dear to me—I felt the injury done to *myself*—For it is more than twenty years since I became acquainted with Mr. B. and his family—from that time I have been considered by him as a brother—from that time I have considered him and his children as my dearest relations ; and his very amiable daughter, to whom that infamous letter was addressed, had grown up from her earliest infancy under my eye, and had been during her life receiving from me and returning to me every reciprocation of filial and parental regard. Keene knew all this—he had often heard me express every sentiment of my soul as it regarded that family, and as it regarded the amiable, respectable lady to whom that letter was written. And yet, thus knowing my sentiments, he had thus acted.

Had the question been, shall I take such a man into my family ? I would almost as soon have taken a rattle snake to my bosom.

But unfortunately he was *then* in my family ; he was *then* under my protection.

I have ever held it as a sacred principle that every person has a right to investigate characters, and decline shewing attentions, or rendering services to those, who are not in their opinion, deserving ; but if on *any occasion*, or from *any circumstance*, a person is once received into a family and taken under its protection to discard such person, to deprive such person of those attentions which have been usually

shewn is a severe and cruel punishment; peculiarly to a person who is *young*, *friendless* and without *fortune;* a punishment which never ought to be inflicted, but in case of great and aggravated criminality to the person who had been the protector; or proof of extreme depravity.

I also felt a certainty that, if I then threw him from me, I must either suffer myself to be considered as acting from caprice or perhaps from a wish to free myself from the expence which I incurred on account of my connexion with him; or that I must be under the necessity of disclosing to the world the reasons for which I had thrown him from me, by which I might do him an irreparable injury. I frankly conversed with my friend Mr. B. who, feeling the delicacy of my situation, did not ask from me the sacrifice.

I was the father of two daughters, dear to me as my life. I could not avoid reflecting on the possible situation they might stand in with Mr. Keene: but I knew they had for twelve months moved in the most respectable society in America, and had been daily associating with gentlemen infinitely superior to Keene in every elegance and accomplishment either of person or mind. While, therefore, I could not suppose him possibly to be so thorough bred a villain as to meditate a blow at the heart of his benefactor, I could not any more presume that a *child of mine* could have ever become attached to him. I most certainly should as soon have expected that Miranda in the desart island could have fallen in love with *Calliban*.

I also further considered the different situation in which he stood in my family from that in which he had been in the family of Mr. B. He had entered into that family, if to receive benefits, to return those benefits by his services; he might plead in excuse that the young lady was placed under his immediate care and tutelage and that his *tindery* constitution was necessarily and involuntarily kindled in a blaze from the attractive sparks which daily shot forth from the expanding beauties both of her mind and her person, while that mind was under his immediate cultivation: but into my family he entered merely as an object of charity; and to my daughters, even after their return from New-York, he was introduced to no further intimacy or acquaintance than what might unavoidably arise from taking his food at the same table.

Under these impressions, humanity prevailed ; and highly improper as I considered his conduct to have been to my friends, I finally declined to be his punisher ; but, as it is difficult for me to avoid shewing in my countenance the feelings of my heart, it seems he discovered that he did not possess my esteem, and therefore addressed me in the manner which has been seen.

The letter itself is most artfully framed. By my having permitted him to remain in my family he well knew that whatever displeasure I might feel for him I did not mean to discard him, and when he painted to me his distressed situation—that he was wholly without resources—that although he had the use of my office, his food at my table—his washing and mending done in my family, all free from expence, yet even for his other necessities he had been obliged to borrow money : he knew the man to whom he addressed himself too well to suppose it possible that his proposition of withdrawing from my table should be accepted ; when at the same time he solicited to be indulged in the use of my office, which being in my dwelling house, and the room through which company entered, his situation as to my family or any person, who wished to visit them, would not be materially changed.

To that letter I wrote him an answer of which I have no copy, but in my answer I candidly assured him I had felt disapprobation of his conduct in two instances which I explained to him : the one is of no importance to the public on the present occasion, the other was his conduct towards Mr. B's family, and particularly his letter to Mrs. T. and I endeavoured to impress him with a sense of the impropriety of his conduct, at the same time I informed him under the hope and expectation that in future he would avoid all such improprietes, I did not wish him to leave my table, and thereby add to those expences which he was so unable to meet. On his receiving my answer he sent me the following reply.

Dear Sir,

Your note of this morning has affected me much, and calls forth a few observations, which I must continue my appeal to your indulgence for the notice of.

We are disposed to pass self-judgment so unfairly, that it is a difficult thing to know one's self aright. Such information I deem an important object and shall always esteem myself fortunate in the attainment of it: but such is the influence of passion and prejudice in perverting the judgment when sensibility is concerned; that the cool and disinterested suggestions of others are ever to be desired, in enabling us to decide upon plans and principles of action, the most conducive to our true interest and happiness. Those suggestions I feel every willingness and cordiality in acknowledging, will ever be duly appreciated by me. *I shall ever be thankful* for receiving them *from any source.* But when that source is *Mr. Martin*, when *from him* I receive the expressions of friendly frankness, I feel *all the thankfulness of which my nature is capable*; (28) and so highly should I prize even the *severest admonitions* from *that source*, that I would do any thing short of voluntary wrong to obtain them (29)

The *date* of your letter shall form a *distinct epoch* with me; from which the *regulation* and *subjection of the passions* shall be *unremittingly aimed at.* (30) For, in that letter I see with the utmost poignancy the havock and carnage of sensibility, which the angry passions, in particular may produce; and will strenuously and vigilantly (31) endeavour "to repress that ardour and self partiality which render us so unfit to judge for ourselves either of the malignity of the supposed or real injury received, or of the resentment and punishment proportionate thereto."

I have *already* long *reflected on*, and *deeply regretted* the instances of *intemperate resentment* and *passionate folly* which I have been *hurried into.* (32) I now find *a great additional motive* and *inducement* to increase that reflection and regret, and to *square* my future conduct by the *rules of moderation, liberality and charity*, when the recommendation

28. I have learnt most dearly, of what thankfulness *his* nature *is capable.*

29. The truth is he was so anxious for my "severe admonitions," that rather than not to obtain them, he has thought proper not to stop "*short;*" but has actually been guilty "of voluntary wrong."

30. If he really has since that "epoch" made such his "aim," he certainly has been most unsuccessful.

31. Alas, how soon did his vigilance fall asleep.

32. I rather suspect he will now have to reflect and regret his folly as long as he lives.

thereto comes *from you;* and when by my observance of that recommendation *you* promise to *take satisfaction.* (33)

Without attempting to *justify* the first disagreeable incident spoken of in your letter, I will just remark upon it for the purpose of submitting to you how far any *palliation* or *extenuation* may justly have place. * * * * * * * *

As to the second circumstance mentioned in your letter; the irritating causes, chiefly, that produced my letter to Mrs. T. were her remonstrance with a married lady in town, against my being permitted to continue to visit in that lady's family, (34) upon the ground of my *worthlessness:* and after Miss B. had been admonished by her to treat me in a way expressive of her contempt, she Miss B. (to have such treatment drawn from her) was informed that I had become a *drunkard*, a *debauchee*, and in short a mere vagabond. The *names of my informants* I *repeat* are *respectable*, and can easily be mentioned. I was conscious of not meriting such treatment from Mrs. T. and was wounded in the extreme at it, especially as I had done every thing short of meaness to make her and the family convinced that they ought not to have any thing to apprehend from me. If Mrs. T. could but for a moment suppose one of her brothers to have been situated as I was, she might think differently of the subject from what she now does.

True it is that I had no friends or relations to share in pain that was inflicted upon me, so that its effects were limited to myself only. Mrs. T. had many to feel her pain, and thereby to make the wound the greater, in proportion to its extension. Her severe charges, however were not the less distressing to myself, but perhaps the more so, from the nature of my situation. However, I most sincerely regret the pain my letter has inflicted. I had infinitely rather that I had forbore to indulge a spirit of recrimination. *It shall be a solemn warning to me, however, to let my conduct speak for itself hereafter,* (35) and to *repress the effusions of pas-*

33. He has, to be sure, taken great pains to "*square* his conduct since that time so as to give me satisfaction!!"

34. A family in which Miss B. was in the habits of visiting, and into which Mr. Keene, of course, had obtruded himself, that thereby he might keep up an acquaintance with the young lady, notwithstanding his promise to her father to the contrary.

35. It is the very thing I wish, that "his conduct should speak for itself." It is for this purpose I am now addressing the public.

sion. (36) As to Mrs. T. and her family, I cherish nothing like animosity against them.

I never expect and shall never attempt to become intimate with the family. But I could sincerely wish them to banish resentment and to live with them on terms of common politeness and civility.

I have now, Sir, only to return you my *hearty thanks* for your *further goodness* in *expressing your satisfaction at my continuance in your office and at your table*, till a change in your situation.

I am, Sir,
As heretofore,
Your *grateful* and *obedient servant*,
R. R. KEENE.

February 24, 1801.

36. How well he has learned to "repress the effusions of his passion" his wish to shed the blood of two of my dearest connexions sufficiently proves.

The reader will observe that at the time these letters were written, Mr. Keene had been under my protection nearly *two years ;* and that the first time I either knew of, or ever suspected, the *true* reason why he left Mr. B's family, was about the 9th of December, previous to the date of these letters.

LUTHER MARTIN.

MODERN GRATITUDE.

"INGRATUM SI DIXERIS, OMNIA DIXERIS."

The heart that is ungrateful *is* capable *of* every crime.

(No. II.)

MR. KEENE continued in the enjoyment of my office and my table, as before those letters had been written, until the tenth or eleventh of June following without any occurrence material to be, at present, mentioned, relating to him, except that he was admitted as an attorney of the county court of Baltimore county on the tenth day of April in the same year. About the twelfth day of April I was under the necessity of leaving Baltimore to attend the Eastern Shore general court at Easton, in Talbot county, which detained me from home upwards of a fortnight. In a few days after I returned, I accompanied my daughter, Mrs. S. to New-York, and on my return from that city I escorted to Baltimore Miss A. M. T. an amiable interesting little friend of my daughter's, who had been for some time engaged to visit them.

The next morning I was obliged to set out for Annapolis to attend the Western Shore general court, which did not end before the fifteenth day of June: hence it will be understood that from the twelfth day of April until the fifteenth day of June, I was almost entirely from home.

It had been arranged between my daughters, their young friend, and myself, that during the session of the general court, they were to spend a week in Annapolis in governor Ogle's family; and consequently on the eighth day of June they left Baltimore under the protection of my friend John Purviance, Esq. and that evening arrived at the Governor's, in the stage. About three days after, Mr. Keene made his appearance at Annapolis. He waited on me and informed me that he wished to be admitted as an attorney of the general court, and requested me to mention him to the judges, which I did, and he was admitted. He waited upon the young ladies at the Governor's. This was considered a matter of course: It was known that he had long been under my protection, and to a certain degree, one of my family. This was sufficient to authorise his visit, and was certain to insure him polite attention; he was occasionally invited there, and accordingly I occasionally met with him at the governor's. All this time I had not the slightest suspicion that he had formed any design upon either of my daughters. On Sunday, the fourteenth of June, I spent the day at the governor's, and did not return to my lodgings till near twelve at night: An accident took place in the evening which caused my daughters to incur, to a certain degree, my displeasure.

On Monday following I dined with the governor—except his own family, including my three little girls, there was no other person but Mr. Keene and the clerk of the council. During the time of dinner, the circumstances of the preceding evening were introduced by one of the company, which drew from me some severe reprehensions: There was an attempt to hold up the conduct of Mr. Keene relative to the subject in question, as highly meritorious, however censureable might be the conduct of the others:—This forced from my Maria the following address to me:—"You do not, Papa, know Mr. Keene as well as I do, else you would not think him that friend of yours which he pretends to be." I instantly answered, "If you know my dear, any thing to his prejudice, in which I am concerned, you ought to have informed me of it before." She replied, "I would have done so, had I known it of a certainty, but, though I have long suspected him, it is only since we parted yesterday that from information given me by my sister, I

found I was not mistaken."—Keene could stand it no longer —he rose with much agitation, left the table, and retired into an adjoining room. I then told Maria I wished no explanation at that time—that she was then considerably irritated—that on a proper occasion I should ask an explanation; but that though the charge would come from a child, whom I loved, she must be assured that I would act impartially and with justice towards Mr. Keene.

The ladies soon after left the table. The governor, the clerk of the council and myself, continued there for perhaps an hour; during which time I observed Keene and one of those who had left the table, walking and conversing together in the garden.

The general court that day adjourned, and the next morning was fixed on for the return of myself and family to Baltimore.

I had to engage seven seats in the stage, five for my own family, including my childrens' waiting maid, and two for two young ladies, who availed themselves of that opportunity to go to Baltimore; the one the daughter of the honourable S. Chase, the other the daughter of the honourable J. T. Chase. I accordingly, late in the afternoon, left the governor's and went to Caton's tavern to engage seats; from whence I was returning to Mr. Stevens, where I lodged; when within a few feet from the Church, I was accosted by Mr. Keene, with such a rueful face, so woe-begone! He intreated me to stop, that he had a secret of the utmost importance to disclose to me. I stepped from the middle of the street, to the side of the Church, that we might not be interrupted by passengers,—then leaning against it, put myself in an attitude to listen; and requested him to proceed. He did proceed by informing me, with real, or pretended tears in his eyes, with the utmost genuine, or affected remorse and contrition, that he was under the painful necessity of disclosing to me a secret, that must forever deprive him of my regard and esteem, that must compel me to consider him the basest of men, and unworthy of every favour I had shewn him—that he knew I never could forgive him—that I must forever despise him—but that there was no sacrifice I could wish or ask, which he would not make—he was ready to leave the state, or do any thing I would desire. All this time he kept me in the most painful suspence, and was *most*

artfully winding up my feelings, to the highest pitch ; I entreated him to put an end to all further preface and to inform me at once what *was* the secret he had to disclose. He at length told me that for some time past he had been sensible of the charms of My Eleonora ; that he had paid his addresses to her, and endeavoured to gain her affections—he acknowledged that he was well satisfied I had different views for her—that he could never expect me to approve of his addresses, or think him a proper match for my daughter, who had certainly a right to expect to form a connexion with a person much his superior—and concluded with again assuring me that he knew I could never forgive him ; that he could not expect nor hope for my forgiveness ; but knew that I must consider him the basest of men thus to attempt to abuse my generosity, and that he was willing to leave the state or do any thing else I wished.

After having thus almost tortured my feelings, it may be easily believed that I was, to a certain degree, rendered happy by finding it was no worse ; especially as I had not at that time the least suspicion that my Eleonora had any more regard for him than for any one of the servants in my family ; and also having reason to believe that she had *voluntarily* given to her sister, as was really the case, that information to which my Maria had alluded to in our conversation at dinner ; and which, when Keene found it must inevitably be disclosed to me, had induced him, though he meant I should have remained in total ignorance of his designs, to come forward, and, in a manner, that might excite in my heart the most favourable impressions towards him, become himself my informant.

I told him in reply, with great candour, that considering the circumstances under which he came into my family and the knowledge he had of my sentiments, I could not but view his conduct as highly improper : That in the first place, he well knew that I would not consent my child should marry even a person I most highly approved until she was three or four years older. (1) That he had often heard me express this sentiment, and assigned for it, that I had seen a considerable number of most amiable women, in consequence of their marrying when very young, and becoming mothers at

1. My daughter was then about eight months more than fourteen years of age.

so early an age, sink into their graves, even almost before they were women. That the *rapidity* with which my Eleonora had grown to the size of a woman, was a strong reason to induce me not to wish her to marry at so early an age, since that very circumstance, in all probability rendered her constitution less established; and that I knew she could not walk a few squares without complaining of pains in her breast. I then told him further, that as to himself he was not the man, whom I had ever contemplated as the husband of either of my children, and that I had different views for them. I told him that they had been brought up under the most unbounded indulgence; and accustomed to have every want gratified; that they but little knew the value of money; and that any fortune they could expect from me would not enable them long to live in the manner they would wish unless their husbands had some fortune, or were in a situation to assist in furnishing means for supporting and providing for a family; that my objections to him did not arise merely from his want of fortune, for tho' I considered my daughters entitled to expect both merit and some additional fortune in a husband;—yet I would infinitely prefer they should marry men of real worth without a shilling, than the richest men in the world destitute of merit.

I told him further, that I considered any worthy, respectable man of a good education, and engaged in any profession in which he is likely by his eminence to acquire reputation and property, as having a right to address any lady. And, desirous to hurt his feelings, as little as possible, assured him, that if he had waited until my Eleonora was of an age to form a proper judgment in so important a case; until she was of a suitable age to enter into the marriage state; and had he then been found conducting himself with propriety; had I then found him respectable and coming forward in life in such a manner as to give a reasonable confidence he would be able to assist in supporting and providing for a family, I should then have considered him as having a right in an honourable manner to avow himself a competitor for the affections of my child against any other person, who should be a candidate for her affections, and should have thought it no arrogance in him, nor degradation to her:—and I concluded by assuring him, that although I considered him as very censurable on account of what had passed; yet, as he appeared

so sensible of the impropriety of his conduct, and had expressed so perfect a determination to act in obedience to my will, and had offered even to leave the state, if I wished it, I should ask no such sacrifice; all I should demand would be that he should break off all connexion with my child, and cease from any intercourse with her. That this would render it necessary for him to be no longer an inmate in my family or office; but as he had now been admitted an attorney in the county and general courts, his assuming a more *independant* situation would be considered as a thing of course; that I well knew by so acting he would incur an additional expence, which he might not at first be prepared to meet; in which case, if he found himself embarrassed I would with pleasure assist him.

I assured him if he thus acted and conducted himself in such a manner, of the propriety of which, he seemed so sensible, he was welcome to stay at Baltimore, if he thought it would be most for his interest; and, that, if he acted in the manner I proposed to him as the line of his conduct, he should find me always ready to render him services. He made the most solemn promise of breaking off every connexion with my Eleonora; of ceasing from all intercourse with her, and of, as he calls it, "*squaring*" his future conduct by my wishes; and expressed to me the most grateful sense of the indulgence I had shewn him.

This is the substance of what then passed between us.—We were together perhaps ten or fifteen minutes—the scene was about fifty yards from the door of my lodgings, and we met nearly as the sun set. The meeting was totally unexpected by me; the subject, if possible, less expected. Nor did, nor could, I know one circumstance relative thereto but what he disclosed.

The next day which was the *sixteenth* day of June, I returned to Baltimore, in the stage, accompanied by the two young ladies before mentioned: the two seats not taken by myself were occupied by Mr. Keene and a Mr. G. who came to Baltimore with us.

On Wednesday the day after Mr. Keene had returned with us to Baltimore, when he made his appearance in my office, he observed to me, in consequence of what had passed between us at Annapolis, that he would be much obliged to me if I would consent that for a few days he might still

remain connected with me as he had formerly been, until he could make the necessary arrangements for leaving my family.

I without hesitation informed him that I did not wish to put him to any immediate difficulty, and that therefore his continuance a few days in my office and at my table till he could make such arrangements would not be objected to.

On the day after is dated a letter addressed by him to my daughter, Maria, which she the next day with the utmost propriety placed in my hands. The letter was evidently written under the impression that she did not approve his addresses to her sister; and its object was to conciliate her good will and reconcile her to his views. On this occasion I conversed with Maria and some others of my family concerning Mr. Keene's conduct, and became acquainted with the extreme caution and art which he had used to prevent my having any suspicion of him, and to keep me ignorant of his attentions to my daughter. Nay, that occasionally, when Maria had charged him with a design to obtain Eleonora's affections, he had in the most solemn manner denied it, declaring all his attentions to her proceeded merely from the high regard he felt for her father; that if she could suppose him to have any other views she must think him the greatest villain on earth; that it was impossible for him even to think of doing me such an injury, or repaying my kindness by such ingratitude; then addressing himself to her humanity and generosity he would say, "My dear Maria, let me conjure you for God's sake never to mention such a suspicion to your father—you know how dependant I am upon him—that I have no other friend on earth—he has been more than a father to me—was he to believe me capable of being so base he would throw me off forever—you would do me an irreparable injury, when I solemnly assure you that your suspicions are groundless!"

By such artifices he had prevented Maria from disclosing to me such parts of his conduct which had excited her suspicions, least she might *unnecessarily* injure him; nor was she certain her suspicions were just until her sister confirmed them, as I have before stated, at Annapolis. And I thus had remained so totally ignorant of his attentions to my daughter that I had not the least suspicion of his designs, although I found that they had been for some time the subject of pretty general conversation in the city.

When I found Mr. Keene had used such art to prevent my having any knowledge of his attentions to my child—when I found that he had thus, by *deliberate falshood*, imposed upon the generous heart of her sister; and when I found that, instead of breaking off all intercourse with my children, as he had solemnly promised, he on the next day, after he had, under the pretext already mentioned, solicited a continuance for a short time in my family, had written to my daughter Maria, a letter for the very purpose of interesting her in his favour; I felt an irresistable impression that his promise, which he made to me of giving up all pretentions to my Eleonora, and ceasing from any further intercourse with her, was not meant to be kept; but that he had formed the plan, even though he might apparently act consistently with that engagement, secretly and clandestinely to keep up a correspondence with her, and to act over the same scenes of duplicity, which I believed he had acted on a former occasion; I found it therefore necessary to hasten his departure from my family, and next morning informed him that I wished him to expedite his arrangements to leave it: and in order, as far as I could, to induce him to cease from a line of conduct, on which I believed he had determined, while I repeated my disapprobation of him as the husband of my child, and my absolute objections to her marrying any person until she was three or four years older; I took some pains to convince him that it would be folly in him to think of keeping alive an affection for her under such circumstances; and that, in all probability, long before that period he would have an opportunity of forming a connexion equally conducive to his happiness, and probably more to his interest.

I perceived instantly, though he avoided mentioning the letter he had written to Maria, that he suspected I had seen it; and also that I had received from her the history of much more of his conduct than was the fact, for he immediately began to make an apology, under the idea that I had received such information, for several parts of his conduct, which might be thought incorrect, and which, notwithstanding his apology, continued to appear so to me, but which my daughter had not mentioned to me, and of which I should have remained ignorant, had not conscious guilt on his part, and a supposition that I was apprized thereof drawn the information from his own lips.

Our conversation on this subject ended by my enforcing the necessity of his leaving my family as quick as possible, and my assurances at the same time, that if he conducted himself with propriety, I would render him every service in my power, and if his change in situation induced such additional expences as to embarrass him, he might at any time apply to me for pecuniary assistance. It was I believe not more than a day or two from that time before he withdrew from my family, and in thus withdrawing he expressed an intention of settling in Genessee, and observing that he wished to go to Philadelphia first in order to purchase law books, he even affected to consult with me respecting those which I would particularly recommend him to purchase.—He *did* leave this place and proceeded to Philadelphia, on or about the 25th day of June last.

Here it will be necessary to go back and state a few preceding occurrences. When Mr. Wharton and his lady from Philadelphia, last spring, visited the City of Washington, Miss W********d, a friend and relation of my children, accompanied them as far as Baltimore, on a visit to my family, where she remained two or three weeks; during this period she could not but become acquainted with Mr. Keene. Some short time before Mr. Keene left this place for Philadelphia, Miss H. R. an amiable and much esteemed friend of my daughters, had also visited that city. And before he went from this place, he knew perfectly that I meant to visit Boston, accompanied by my daughters, and their young friend, who was with them in my family; and that in pursuance of such design, I meant to leave Baltimore in the mail-stage, on the morning of the second of July, in consequence of which he knew that, without an accident, I should be in Philadelphia early on the third; and he also knew that my daughters, while in Philadelphia, would be with their relation, who had so recently visited them in Baltimore, at her father's, Mr. John Whitehead.

"*Raw and unexperienced* from the walls of a college," the Hero of my story, *had made* his arrangements: being acquainted with Miss H. R. he of course waited upon her; and in consequence of Miss W——d's having been at Baltimore; he procured an introduction to her family, in which the knowledge that he was in any manner under my protec-

tion was sufficient to assure him a polite and friendly reception.

We arrived at Philadelphia on the morning of the 3d of July, as Keene had expected, and after breakfasting at Hardy's, I accompanied the young ladies to Mr. Whitehead's. After the first compliments were over, our little cousin informed them she was happy they had arrived that morning, for their friend Miss R. was that evening to drink tea with her;—we all expressed pleasure, myself particularly, for I wished my children to see her as they passed through Philadelphia; but meaning to make only a very short stay I was apprehensive they might not meet. After dinner I went out on business, and when I returned in the evening, who should I meet at Mr. W's but this "*Raw* and *unexperienced* Collegiate," who had *artfully* formed the whole arrangement, and who, under the pretext of waiting on Miss R. became one of the company. It had been my original intention to have spent the fourth of July in Philadelphia; but when I found Mr. Keene thus availing himself of the respect, which he received from his having been connected with me, and ignorance of the real situation in which he then stood, which I had no wish to disclose, in order again to become the companion of my daughter, and to renew with her an intercourse from which he had solemnly promised me to desist; and not believing that myself or my children should receive much satisfaction from the display of democratic noise, or democratic insolence, which, it was reasonable to suppose, would that day be most conspicuous,—I formed the determination to leave Philadelphia the next morning in the eight o'clock stage, to which determination my Eleonora, so little did she then care for him, most readily assented. It being thus fixed that we were to leave the city next morning, Miss R. and some other young friends of my children agreed to meet us at the *George*, and there bid each other farewell—when in the morning we went there we met among others, our amiable friend Miss R. and *as I expected*, Mr. Keene as her attendant beau:—we were together twelve or fifteen minutes, when just as the way-bill was making out, this "raw and unexperienced" youth, casting his eyes over it, observed, addressing himself to the company in general, but in my hearing, "There seems to be room for another passenger; I wish very

much to see my friend Mr. C. who, I am informed, is at Bordentown, I think I will take the vacant seat, and go on as far as Trenton." I, than whom no person knows better his wiles, immediately saw that, notwithstanding his engagements to me, he was determined, if possible, to keep up an intimacy with my child, and in order to give himself, at least the *appearance* of being on very intimate terms with myself and my family, wished to be seen leaving Philadelphia with us, as one of our company, and feeling myself convinced that it was his intention to quarter himself upon us all the way to Boston, I touched him on the arm and passed into another room into which he followed me. I there said to him " Mr. Keene I shall not contest your right to take a vacant seat in a stage, whoever may be travelling therein, to go wherever you please ; but if you expect, should you now go on, to be considered as one of my company and treated as such, you will certainly find yourself mistaken."—This was sufficient, he *did not* go on to see his friend Mr. C.

We then proceeded to Boston, from which place we returned to New-York on the 26th of July ; I there left my two daughters, in Mr. Scott's family ; and I wish to God that I had not brought my Eleonora from that place.

They were to stay with their friends in that city, two or three weeks, from whence they were to come to Philadelphia, attended by their brother-in-law ; where they were to remain at Mr. Whitehead's, until I called for them ; they were then to go with me to Easton, in Talbot county, and there spend their time with my friends, until the general court should adjourn ; and from thence to return with me to Baltimore.

I arrived myself at this city, on my return from Boston, the 29th day of July.—Mr. Keene had, in the mean time, apparently, given over the idea of settling in Genessee, and had returned to this place, where he had taken an office.—Upon my arrival, when asked if my daughters had returned with me, I mentioned the arrangement I had made, and that they would not be in Baltimore until they came with me from Easton after the ensuing session of the general court. This was well known in my family, and among my friends and acquaintance generally ; among others, it was well known to Keene.

On the 3d day of September, I went from this place to Phi-

ladelphia, and on the Saturday following left that city for Chester-Town, Maryland, with my family, where we arrived on Sunday afternoon. We were to have proceeded together on the next morning, in the stage, to Easton ; but one of my children having on Sunday night been much indisposed, I was under the necessity of leaving them with their friend Mrs. W. to follow me in the stage on Wednesday, under the protection of a gentleman of my acquaintance then going to Easton, and I proceeded on my journey on the Monday.

On Tuesday Mr. G. son of our late judge, informed me that his lady, who had been formerly very intimate in my family, wished to know whether my daughters had arrived at Easton, or when they would be there, as she meant immediately to visit them and request them to stay with her at Myrtle-Grove. I informed Mr. G. they would be down on Wednesday evening, and that I was certain they would with great pleasure spend part of their time with his lady, who was so dear to them and whom they so much esteemed. My daughters arrived on Wednesday evening, and were by me immediately introduced to Doctor M——e and his Lady, in whose house I had engaged them a home for the little time they might occasionally spend in Easton. Mrs. G. on Thursday, came to see them, and finding they were engaged to drink tea that afternoon with Mrs. Kerr, she determined to wait until after tea, that she might take them with her.

On the preceding day, I found Mr. Keene had arrived at Easton :—He came to me, I believe he brought me a letter, and informed me he wished to be admitted as an attorney of that court ;—I applied for his admission, and he was accordingly admitted.

It did not escape my notice that he was endeavouring, as much as possible, to introduce himself to an acquaintance and intimacy with my friends and acquaintance in Talbot county, and particularly with those, in whose families it was most probable my children would visit—I was at no loss to discover his object.

On Thursday evening I went to Mr. K's to tea, and found, as I expected, Mr. Keene of the company, and observed him particularly attentive to Mrs. G. After tea, Mrs. G. Eleonora and the servant maid took their places

in her charriot—Mr. G. had handed Maria into his gigg, when taking him by the hand, I asked him, in a whisper, whether Keene was to dine with him on the next day—he answered me "Yes, he was to-day introduced to me and I accordingly gave him an invitation"—I replied, "Make no mention of what I have said.

I immediately foresaw that without an effort on my part, he would be the constant associate of my daughters until they left Talbot; and that the very circumstance of its being known what kindness I had shewn him, while his conduct towards my family was, from motives of delicacy, suppressed by me, would facilitate and secure to him the accomplishment of his object.

Upon my return to the tavern, where I lodged, in a different part of which Keene also had his lodgings, I sat down and wrote him the following note.

"SIR,

"After what passed at Philadelphia, I scarcely expected to have found you acting again the same part here! I am informed you have procured yourself an invitation to dinner with Mr. Goldsborough to-morrow. If you *do* go there I will certainly send for my daughters and bring them away. It rests, Sir, with you, whether my children shall have an opportunity of visiting their friends, without my being obliged to make it a sacred condition, that you shall not be admitted where they visit; for no motive of delicacy to you shall influence me to suffer them to be persecuted by you, or their situation, as it relates to you, misunderstood."

This letter I signed, and, having sealed and directed it to him, when we met in the supper-room, as I passed him, I put it into his hand. The next morning, soon after I was dressed he came into my room, and expressed himself extremely sorry that I should suppose he had any intention to keep up an intercourse with my daughters after the promises he had made to me—declared that he had come to the Eastern Shore entirely on business—that the death of Mr. Bowie with whom a younger brother was a student, was in part the cause, and that he had to meet on business some man who lived near, I think he said, Choptank bridge. He further assured me that every thing which had taken place at Philadelphia was perfectly accidental; that when Miss

R. was engaged to drink tea with our relation, he did not know that my daughters would be there—nor when he accompanied Miss R. did he know he should find them there; that his only object in proposing to take a seat to Trenton, was his desire to see his friend Mr. C. That on the present occasion when he left Baltimore, he did not know that my daughters would be at Easton. That when he arrived there he had to be sure just called upon them to let *Miss Maria* know that he had not been inattentive to some commands she had, before they parted in Philadelphia requested him to execute for her. That when he accepted the invitation to drink tea with Mrs. Kerr, he did not know my daughters were to be there,—nor when he accepted Mr. G's invitation to dine with him, did he know, that they were going with Mrs. G. to Myrtle-Grove.

Having listened attentively until he had finished his apology, I replied—"I wish not Mr. Keene to disbelieve your assertions, but you must permit me in answer, to observe, that it is well known you have read law in my office, and in some measure been connected with my family,—also, that you have entered into the practice of the law,—that on your profession you depend for your support, and that Baltimore is fixed on by you for the place of your residence,—that the county court of that county is now sitting, and that, if you regarded your true interest, you ought to be there at this time. You will be seen here by persons from many parts of the state;—and though you have been admitted into this court, yet, instead of assuming *even* the appearance of attention to business, it will be known that pleasure alone here occupies your time, and that you are visiting through the county in company of *my daughters;*—to your acquaintance with whom your conduct will be attributed, and as *accident*, as you assure me, has been productive of every past occurrence, which hath by me been thought censurable;—so I have no doubt that the *same kind of accident* would cause you to be their constant attendant and carry you wherever they should go.—This I neither can, nor will permit.

If, therefore, all these events, appearing so much the result of design, have, indeed and in truth, merely proceeded from accident, I can only say that it will be necessary for me equally to guard against accident as I would guard against design; I therefore shall feel myself bound to pursue the line of conduct mentioned in my letter to you—should you

dine with Mr. Goldsborough to-day according to your invitation.—Mr. Keene then repeated his declarations to me that he had never, intentionally, violated his solemn promise to me not to attempt keeping up any intercourse with my children;—declared that whatever had taken place in Philadelphia, or on the Eastern Shore, which had any appearance to the contrary, had originated from accident, and assured me he would give up every thought of dining with Mr. G. but at the same time informed me that he had some business at Choptank, which obliged him to go to that place, on his return from which, he would immediately set out for Baltimore. He accordingly the afternoon of the next day departed from Easton on his way to Baltimore.

It was, I think, on the twenty-fourth of September, that I returned with my children from Easton to this city.

Having thus stated the most material events relative to this subject, which took place from the twenty-fourth of February, 1801, the date of his last letter, until our return to Baltimore in the latter part of September; having shewn in what manner, when he found his secret could no longer be kept, he disclosed it to me; and the engagements which he at that time entered into, as also the manner in which *accident* was perpetually interfering to prevent his compliance with those engagements,—I now break off my narrative for a few moments, to gratify those of my friends or others, who ask "for what purpose do you now publish this work? Is he not married to your daughter, do you wish to throw obstacles in the way to his advancement in life? However improperly he may have acted it is now too late to recall the past; and, however undutiful she hath been to you, you certainly will not cast off all parental affection for her—you cannot forget that she is your daughter—and you ought to make great allowance for her extreme youth." To these and all other similar questions, I answer, "the very circumstance of her extreme youth instead of diminishing, greatly enhances the crime of her disobedience, and the insulting stubbornness with which she opposed the advice and the entreaties of all whom she ought most to have respected, and to whom she was most dear;—and infinitely aggravates the guilt of *him* who *thus perverted her principles*, *who taught her thus to act!*

I have *not forgot* she is my daughter, but it may be

doubted, whether those, who wish to befriend her, do well to put me in mind of it;—it causes memory to retrace her tablets: it brings to recollection the thousand, the ten thousand instances of parental fondness she has received from an affectionate father—it carries me back to the period when with solicitude indescribable and unceasing attention I watched over the last expiring spark of her life, when next to her God I preserved it from being forever extinguished—when my heart overflowed with gratitude to that God for restoring to me a child, who, I fondly flattered myself, would live to strew with flowers the paths of my declining life. As to casting off all parental affection for her, I shall only say, was it possible to recall the past, to restore her to me such as my fond heart once thought her, I would *shed tears of blood!!*

That Keene *is married* to my daughter is, alas, too true. By this he has done me the greatest of injuries; but I have never been in the habit of returning evil *even for evil.*—My present conduct *doth not* proceed from a design to *injure* him, nor to throw obstacles in the way to his advancement in life. And that it may possibly have such a tendency is to me an additional source of pain; but ought I, or could I justifiably, out of indiscriminating weakness towards those, who have *spurned* at every duty which gratitude and affection ought to have rendered sacred—myself violate the most sacred duty of a parent and friend? by giving up the respectability of children most *deservedly* dear,—of friends and relatives, whose conduct and merit have secured and entitled them to my warmest esteem and affection—and who have no crime but the reciprocal affection and esteem, which they bear towards me, and the anxiety they have shewn to co-operate in the preservation of my happiness? Ought I to decline shielding such persons from the most unfounded obloquy?—Ought I not to wipe away every unmerited censure, with which it has been attempted to tarnish their names?

I have even been represented a parent cruel and unnatural! but infinite pains have been taken to represent me at least as capricious to the extreme,—or most unduly influenced by another,—to represent a child, who is among the most generous and affectionate of sisters as being the ill-natured, unkind and envious persecutor of her sister, and my noble-minded, amiable brother-in-law, my highly respected and beloved children in New-York, as being base calumni-

ators, as having improperly and wantonly endeavoured to injure merit and worth, though even related thereto and connected therewith !—Having the power to do justice to these dear relations, should I be such a monster as to refuse it ?—Was the attempt to injure *confined to myself*,—were not all, who are most dear to me, *implicated therein*, I would have despised the attempt too much even to have thrown away the ink, which I am now using ;—there will always be a sufficient number of my friends and acquaintance, in whose society for the rest of my life I could be happy, and of whose friendship and esteem the *powers* of hell, though assuming the garb of heaven, could never rob me—and for what else need I care ? I can proudly say, that though I entered upon life without fortune, without friends and without patronage, I have, for more than twenty years past, been much more in the habit of conferring than receiving favours ! !

But the attempt to injure has not been confined to me.—It has been extended to all the most dear to me.—They are not exactly in the same situation in which I am ;—they, I trust, have a much longer time to live in this world of trouble and turmoil than I have.—They are but just entering on life—to them the slightest breath of censure may be injurious. They probably may have to form connexions and become more or less interested with those who may not have known me, and may be ignorant of the truth of those events, the misrepresentations of which may be used to their prejudice.

In acting as I now do, I am influenced by these motives, and, instead of being instigated thereto by my children and relations, I will do justice to their generosity ;—they have wished me not to publish ;—but I will not do them injustice even though they plead for it—I must, I will judge for myself.

I repeat, that I am not actuated by the remotest wish to injure Mr. or Mrs. Keene ; nay, the very idea that it may have such effect encreases my pain. But I am not certain that it will have that effect ; I well know that it will be difficult for him to settle in any part of America, where they will not meet some person, who so well know and so much respect me that with all the improprieties of their conduct, the knowledge of their connexion with me would insure them every service, which could with propriety be confer-

red—And I have some reasons to believe also, that there is scarcely any part of America to which they could go, but where they might find individuals, who would consider them highly meritorious for having had so conspicuous a part in the destruction of my happiness.

Nor do I think that any thing I shall publish will, in any probability, exclude him from even the attainment of office, for the period hath not yet arrived when " the only question shall be is the candidate who applies, honest ? Is he capable ? Is he faithful to the constitution ?"

On the contrary, I look forward with almost a certainty, to the time when the hero of my story shall be the secretary of the President--for never did I know a person better calculated to assist in writing, or even in improving upon *inaugural* addresses--and I sincerely hope that the derivative sin, with which he is stained by his connexion with a descendant of colonel Cresap, may be in the eye of *Philosophic Philanthropy* totally effaced and compensated for by the wide-spreading havock he has endeavoured to make in the happiness of all the rest of the family.--I might also in justice to myself declare that when I found the painful event had taken place—when I found that I *had lost* my daughter, and the circumstances under which I had lost her,--I had nearly made up my mind to let them pass without an observation on their conduct ; and was principally engaged in considering in what manner I ought to act towards three individuals, who have been prominent characters in the iniquitous drama, (2) and whose *guilty souls*, if God spares my life, I mean to lash with a scourge of scorpions ;—while thus deliberating, I received the information that the man who, had thus irretrievably injured me, and, in so doing, had insulted the feelings of my most dear and respected relations, instead of conducting himself with an appearance of decency,—was assuming the character of the *Bravo*, to force himself to be noticed and treated with respect by those whom he had thus insulted, and by whom he could not but know he must inevitably be despised--when I knew, that instead of seeking for conciliation, he was acting a part the most hostile, and endeavouring to obtain consequence at the expence of those my most respectable and

2. *Two* of them most conspicuously so, the Rev. Mr. Miller, and his brother, the Doctor, of New-York.

dearest connexions, or to shed their blood ;--I could hesitate no longer *on the part that I ought to act.*—Had not, in the language of Keene, " *imperious necessity*" prevented me, I would not have closed my eyes until I had arrived at the Tontine Coffee-House, in New-York, where I would have placed his true character at the bar,--and where I would have daily attended for one week to have justified it.--Unable to do this I wrote immediately to two gentlemen in that city, to whom I declared what his character was.--I did not do this clandestinely, for I desired each of them to shew him the letter, and if he wished it, to give him a copy.—I wrote to them, because I doubted not they would have the inclination, and had reason to believe they would have sufficient influence to prevent, if it was not too late before they received my letters, events taking place, which were too painful for me even to think of.--The conduct of Mr. Keene obliged me to write those letters,--and the very circumstance of having written them independant even of any other consideration would have obliged me to this public explanation. It would have obliged me to convince them that I did Mr. Keene no injustice.--The *respect shewed by me to them* in addressing them on the subject, compels me to convince them that *I deserve their respect*,—Nor let it be supposed that, I can possibly be displeased with those, who may shew kindness and attention to my unhappy child and the ingrate who is now her husband ;—on the contrary, whatever conduct I may be obliged to adopt, they will endear themselves to me by so doing; unless they shall choose to declare that they are influenced thereto by reason of their conduct towards me, and that this conduct is to them a recommendation.——Should any individual think proper to shew them attentions, declaredly on these principles, whoever such individual may be, to such a one I would tender the homage of my highest contempt.

Before I quit this subject, I will further add, that it has been frequently observed to me, I ought to disregard any misrepresentations, which Mr. Keene may have made to the prejudice of myself or my children, for that no body would believe them.—I readily admit that those who urge this argument do not appear to have a more favourable opinion of him than that which I myself entertain ;—but they do not reflect,—or are ignorant of the world.—There is a

propensity in mankind to believe whatever tends to lessen the respectability of their fellow creatures ; besides which, his misrepresentations may circulate where I am not known. To which may be added, that already have some individuals, whose names *ought* to stand in high respectability thought proper to insinuate that myself or my friends were capable of designedly misrepresenting his conduct and injuring his reputation, and have thrown themselves before him as a shield and a buckler to ward off the blow.

I unfortunately am too well acquainted with Mr. Keene and with his intrigue and his arts. I well know that he is capable, like Milton's Satan, of assuming a variety of shapes the more successfully to insinuate his poison into the ear not only of every credulous Eve but also of every credulous Adam, to whose ear he has the opportunity of approaching.—I have not the time, the disposition nor the means of following him, step by step, to counteract the effects of that poison.—I have no other means of doing justice to those who are dear to me but that which I am now using.—I am obliged to touch him with the spear of *Ithuriel* and compel him to assume his *real form.*

Having made this digression to gratify a number of enquirers I now resume my narrative.

We had not arrived at Baltimore more than four or five days when I was honoured by the following letter from Mr. Keene.

" How shall I address the man, who, in the fulness of his resentment exclaims, " Avaunt thou *monster, who with ruffian hands hath assailed the sacred fabric of domestic endearments*—who hath sought *to seperate the bonds of parental and filial union and thereby to pierce with poisonous darts the very bosom* that *has cherished you from a palsied state of indigence and destitution*, into a condition *susceptible of respectability and emolument.*" (3)

An address in such case, whatever its pretention to candid attention may be, makes its appearance but to receive immediate condemnation, and to bring upon its author an

3. I have heretofore noted that no man was more sensible of the *epithets* he merited and the *language*, in which he might be *deservedly* addressed than Keene himself.—The introduction here is another instance of the truth of my observation.

additional expression of reproachful and indignant feeling, though conciliation only were contemplated, either by the removal of mistaken conceptions, or by an earnest supplication of mercy.

For man, I say, in the face of such prejudication and at the hazard of such reproach, to prefer an address to his fellow-man, inflamed against him, undertakes a task that is truly embarrassing.

The throne of the Divinity, however outraged that Divinity may have been, is ever accessible, we are taught to believe to the aspirations of a sincere and conciliatory heart. (4) But how different is the case between man and his fellow-man.

Here the pride of opinion or vindictiveness of resentment, checks the operation of mercy and commiseration, and in the formation of resolutions and plans of procedure, the proud and angry passions only, are consulted and allowed to act. And in mitigation of such resolutions and plans, the sincerest and best meant entreaties are offered in vain. And the rejection thereof even with cold and merciless disdain is often times attempted to be reconciled to conscience and to justice, by him, by whom the rejection is made.

He says, in the glow or fixedness of his resentment, excited by some real or suppositious, injury, which allows the jaundiced and deceptious medium of prejudice only, through which to behold an adversary's conduct, " my *wrongs* have flowed from a *corrupt heart* whose *depravity is ever pregnant with plots of injury*, and therefore requires the *constant exertion of my resentment to counteract its wicked aims.*— The *proffered supplications*, which flow from the source of injury and depravity, are only *so many canting*, *hypocritical whinings*, *whereby to disarm me of my resentment*, the staff of safety; to *lull me into insecure security*, and *reconciliation*, in order the *more effectually to rob me of some precious right*, and to *inflict* upon me *some fresh disaster*. Avaunt then thou *insidious spirit*, who, with a *wolf's voracity*, though

4. That the throne of the Deity is ever open to the aspirations of a sincere and *penitent* heart I readily admit; but not to an obstinately perverse and deceitful heart! What he means when speaking of a worm of the dust, in his intercourse with the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe shewing a "*conciliatory*" disposition, I confess I am at a loss to understand.

under the *semblance of a lambkin's innocence, seeketh to fatten upon the inhuman spoils of my happiness and repose.*" (5)

Against resolves of such nature and thus firmly fixed, no hope of successful entreaty can be had; and desperate submission becomes the only sad alternative.

But even in the plenitude of wrath, there are generous souls, who, conscious that the utmost perfection of human nature is still but a lesser frailty, doubt their own infallibility in forming estimates of others and revise their hastier decisions under the tempering influence of charitable and liberal allowance. Man, they know, is a heterogeneous being, part God, and part beast;—endowed with reason assimilating him to the former, but fraught with passion that likens him to the latter. And, that in the conflicting tendencies of those opposite qualities, passion in some one or other of its various species, but too often obtains the ascendent. They know that in every age, not only units, but millions of the human race have marshaled themselves in hostile array, and sought each other's blood with the most infuriate vehemence, from the impulse of passion: and each party, while under the influence of this ignisfatuus guide, considering themselves warranted by policy, and justified by humanity and justice. Waving the tumultury emotions of popular bodies they know, that the most upright and enlightened individuals in their calmest and profoundest researches, have in matters of opinion, and practice both, maintained directly opposite sentimens, even where passion could not be supposed to operate at all, and draw directly opposite conclusions from given premises—each supposing, that others self-evident truths, were selfevident absurdities. From this liability in human nature to err, even where the slighter passions are not felt, much less depravity or corruption of heart, indulged, they admit that every individual should blend with his sentiments of the motives or conduct of others, who differ from them, or counteract their wishes, a full portion of charity and liberality: and even after deliberate and cool reflection where disapprobation seemed neces-

5. Another instance of the truth of my observation in my former note.—The expressions he applies to himself and to his conduct are *most appropriate*—and the event has shewn that he was in truth and reality endeavoring to *lull* me into *insecure security*—he was indeed acting the most insidious part towards me and that for the very purpose of *fattening upon the inhuman spoils of my happiness and repose!*

sary to be bestowed, not to let that disapprobation be apportioned as the rewards of depravity where no depravity, at all existed, but pitiable weakness only. (6)

[Persuading myself that under such class of judges, of whom I have just spoken, notwithstanding the *acuteness of your sensibility to injury*, and the strength of your passions, I may rank you, Sir—I, therefore, with the profoundest respect for the feelings of a parent, (7) *particularly of one, to whom I shall ever be proud to acknowledge the highest obligations*, however *appearances* may *be against me* implore of Mr. Martin's goodness, to suspend in idea, for a while, the sentiments and feelings of a parent, and consider in the *nature of things how likely and how natural it is (8) that the impassioned feelings of a young man, who knows his passion to be strictly chaste, should in the transports of love—love which when virtuous, is in the sight of heaven, that acknowledges not the distinctions which ambition and fashion prescribe, (9) the most innocent and tolerable of passions*—consider, I entreat, how natural it is that a young man so situated, should yearn for the object of his earthly adoration; and that the resistless wishes of the lover drawn forth involuntarily into expression, where neither depravity nor perverseness had the least existence, *might interest and alarm the trembling anxieties of an affectionate father, whose hopes and wishes* (I will say hopes and wishes the most laudable) *pointed to an object more eligible than the lover in question:* and this I repeat, without the slightest particle of dishonor or unmanliness ever being contemplated by such lover or the slightest indignity or wrong (10) being even meditated in the least, against the father or his house.]

6. What a charming, philosophical, metaphysical and moral Olio, has he here dished up for me! And how very pertinent to the only question between us!—Whether I could consent to his stealing the affections of an infant child—and bestow her upon him as a reward for the honourable exploit!

7. What his *profoundest* respect for a parent's feelings is, I have experienced,—what would be his *respect only* may be from thence conjectured.

8. Only considered in the *nature of things how likely* and *how natural it is* that the poor and indigent, who are too lazy to work, should steal, and rob—that the enraged ruffian, should murder, &c. &c. &c. &c.

9. He seemes to consider heaven as very much disposed in favour of the present system of liberty and equality.

10. In total inconsistency with himself he here vindicates himself for having clandestinely attempted to gain the affections of a child and thereby interfere with the views of her father and disturb the peace and harmony of the family;—He considers it no "*wrong*," and even appears to claim great merit that he had done no more flagrant injury.

Consider, Sir, the *liability I was under from my situation to become impreceptibly attached* to your daughter, and also the *imperious and ungovernable nature of passion whenever it has triumphed over the suggestions of the mind.* (11)

[Although I knew that *your attachment to your children was great indeed, that you appreciated the residue of your existence more for their sake, than your own, and that their permanent establishment in life, was an important and interesting object to you;* and although you might *naturally be led to look forward for the most eligible establishments for them*, yet I believed that your experience, independance and liberality would induce you to accept of a young man who might be so fortunate as to interest either of them, whom, you should conceive possessed of respectability, of character, and the means of genteel and competent support, (12) and was likely to pursue a line of conduct productive of your daughter's happiness: (13) and that wealth, splendid talents, or elevated rank, were not to be made by you, indispensible possessions for those, who might wish for your alliance.]

The former description I have long cherished the hope of answering, for my own sake, without any collateral view whatever. I have viewed it as a situation worthy of interesting my earnest endeavours for its attainment; and anticipation, which forms a chief source of our happiness, has, I confess (regardless of any imputation of vanity) familiarized my mind to the completion of that purpose. (24)

[Under the *influence of such anticipation*, *I heretofore calculated that my attachment to your daughter might ultimately turn out in the consummation of my happiness with your full approbation.* Such *was the event*, I say, which *I trusted would happen when my anticipation was completely realized.* And such was my deep and lively interest on the occasion, and such was the *influence* of *self-partiality*, a feeling common to us all, that

11. The ready apology for every crime.

12. But unfortunately I did not think him possessed of either.

13. To wit: Sending challenges to her brother-in-law, and the brother of her mother!

14. May God grant that such completion may ever be *realized*, and not *exist only in anticipation.*

I was led to *hope* that your *confidence in such realization* might *possibly* induce you to *agree*, *during that period of anticipation*, to an *endearing intercourse*, *on my part*, *with your daughter*—an intercourse that would in the interchange of sentiment, in the exclusion of sensual impulse overflow the soul with exquisite and refined delight, and gradually and effectually produce that harmony and congeniality of thought, that would constitute one of the principal pledges of matrimonial bliss. How too would it have been my pride, and my delight, to have evinced a worthiness of such confidence by exertions the most ardent and unremitting.]

But enough——A parent's will I ever wished to hold in reverential respect. (15) The will of our God, too, should ever be a sacred and inviolable rule of conduct to man.—But alas! Oh Man, what strange fatality or lamentable frailty, attaches to thy nature. (16) Once thou livedest in fellowship with thy God, enjoying his approbation and regard as the precious reward of upright demeanor. There thy passions enchained at reason's feet, received her every word as law, and durst not swerve therefrom, but yield a prompt compliance. But how altered now is thy condition. For now, I say, rebellious passions oppose the regency of thy mind and by their furious excitement keep the in woeful warefare with thyself. Thou turnest in upon thyself, and reviewest the straight course, which under the guidance of thy better sense thou mightest have travelled in the journey of life, and beholdest the digressions thou hast made.—Thou feelest compunction for thy errors and wickednesses, and resolvest to err and do evil no more.—Thou startest afresh and even appealest to thy God to strengthen thee in thy fair and earnest resolves, so that thou mayest carry them into execution. But thy adversary, passion, still besetest thee in thy career, and either by open force or ambush arts as the work of relapse can better be effected, thou art still annoyed.—And whether relaps or rectitude mark

15. He has certainly shewn a very reverential respect for my will!

16. "But alas. Oh! If I understand his apology it amounts to this, that because he violates the *other* duties, he owes to his God, he is perfectly excusable in disregarding the "reverential respect" due to the will of a parent.

the sequel of this course, let the history of human nature evince. (17)

[In relation to the *influence* of *anticipation* and *self-partiality* of which I have just spoken, I confess that although *thereby* I was inspired with the *fervent hope*, of rendering myself worthy of your daughter, *in your own estimation*, yet nevertheless I confess, I say, that however upright and honourable my views were, and however sanguine, *my hopes*, my *expectations* were not to serve as a model whereon for *yours to be formed*; and however fair *I* might consider my prospect of equalling in every essential respect that class of young men out of which you could be willing to receive husbands for your daughters: *yet you had the most perfect right and liberty to consider it imprudent to commit* yourself too far, *upon prospects* and *expectations*.]

As to any particular traits in my character it is possible enough, that *in one so much about your person as I have been*, and thereby so liable *to be minutely known*, much might have been *seen*, to incur your disapprobation. It is possible enough too, that *you have heard* much more than you have seen. That I have been egregiously misrepresented, on some occasions, I well know to be true; not only to yourself but to others. I have heretofore in some instances, with individuals, whose opinions, I particularly regarded, taken pains to efface misrepresentations. But every day's experience convinces me more and more that such a task is useless—for every day's experience gives new instances of outrage upon the most transcendant merit, and this not happening particularly in any one sphere of life, but in every one; perhaps, indeed, in the more elevated the most.—Independently on newspaper attacks *you yourself well know*, or least ways *I do*, that *from the upper walks of life*, and indeed *within your own circle of particular acquaintance* have proceeded *against you*, the *most opprobrious reflections* for *the most disinterested actions of your life*, (18) and the *petty foibles* of

17. The whole of what is contained in this pomp of language may be comprized in eight words. "Men are weak, and frequently will be wicked."—And what then? *They must be punished.*

18. It is *very possible* his assertion may be true, and after *his own conduct* I am the more ready to believe it.—But so little curiosity have I to know whom among my acquaintance deserve my contempt, that I never asked from Mr. Keene any explanation of the passage.

human nature like *specks* upon the *disk* of the sun *aggravated* into *enormous guilt;* and indeed where *no foundation at all* existed both *foundation* and *superstructure of guilt* have been *fabricated into being.*

Indeed, such is the *propensity of the world to misrepresentation and detraction*; and such the *nature of the tongue* that *indulges therein*, that like the Hydra's head were it again and again dissected, yet it would again spring forth into renovated existence and exert its powers afresh. (19)—One allusion and one only to a past scene will I trouble you with or myself either; and that is, that the family which has your estimation and from which I was for some time past held to be proscribed has since the pride and prejudice so incident to our nature, have subsided on either side and left open the door to explanation, acknowledged the heretofore existence of misunderstanding between us, and that now sentiments of approbation are substituted in the place of those of disapprobation, and a declaration been made to me that if I thought proper to visit in the family, I should be welcomely received.

From the foregoing remarks, Sir, you will perceive that *I am apprehensive of your displeasure;* and that such displeasure I *wish you, as much as possible, to discard*—[this being the *highest* and *only object, to the attainment of which I dare allow my wishes to aspire.* If, Sir, you *can* gratify me in *this respect* my *happiness* thereupon will be *great indeed.* Do then, Mr. Martin, let me implore of your *generosity* (for to your *justice* I fear you think, I dare not appeal) to commiserate the aberrations of passion in a young man—a passion excited by the loveliest object to him within the sphere of creation. Call those aberrations imprudent—perhaps, indeed, you may call them unfortunate; but oh! do not call them unmanly, dishonourable or wicked. For be assured that no sense of sordid interest or want of respect for the feelings of a father, has ever influenced my conduct; but pure, disinterested and unconquerable passion only for Miss Eleonora—*a passion though doomed to meet your disapprobation,* yet let it not continue to me the curse of your displeasure.—But like that God *whose charitable examples, as*

19. Would to God he had possessed less of that "*propensity*"—and that his tongue had not been (to use his own simile) of the Hydra-head kind!

far as finite can imitate infinite you have so often followed, again exercise charity and commiseration on the present occasion: and deign once more to consider me your unfortunate friend, and not your ungrateful, selfish or wicked enemy.]

I am, Sir,
With profoundest respect
And sincerest regard,
Your obedient servant,
R. R. KEENE.

September 30, 1801.

The aforegoing letter is the first Mr. Keene ever wrote to me, from the fifteenth day of June preceding, upon any subject relative to my Eleonora or to his attachment to her;—and if any person can believe, after attending to those parts of this letter, which are enclosed in brackets, that I on the fifteenth day of June, gave "my approbation of Mr. Keene's attachment to my daughter Eleonora, and afterwards, either through caprice, or through the influence of my daughter Maria, had between the fifteenth and eighteenth of June on which is dated that "Note," taking up two sheets of paper, most unfortunately written by him "to Miss Maria Martin," the ghost of which already seems to begin to haunt him, (20) even though we leave that letter entirely out of the question, must be infinitely more credulous than the circumcised Jew of *Horace*.

To this letter I wrote and sent Mr. Keene the following answer.

"I have twice read over your long letter, Sir, and do not know whether I very well understand many parts of it; at least it appears to me that much of it might have been as well introduced on any *other* subject, as that on which you have addressed me.—However, I shall endeavour in my reply to be plain, candid and intelligible.

"That you have been, to a certain degree, the interrupter of my domestic happiness,—and have to a certain degree improperly intruded yourself between parental and filial union

20. See his address to the public, dated March 17th, published in the Federal Gazette of that day.

and duty, is too true.—For doing this I never can admit as a plea, the *jargon* about the irresistable impetuosity and violence of the rebellious passions.—It is a plea that would equally serve the midnight assassin—the high way robber—the despoiler of innocence—the violator of the nuptial tie,—and every person who interferes with the good order and happiness of society.

Men *must* govern and restrain their passions, and keep them within the general rules of morality and rectitude, or they *must* suffer:—Nor is this so difficult;—it only requires some little effort at first;—they are easily restrained in their first birth;—it is only by indulgence, by voluntary indulgence, that they become so impetuous and violent as to hurry their possessor into acts of impropriety.—At least, let me assure you, that an incapability of restraining his passions within the bounds of propriety and rectitude would be an irresistable objection to my bestowing a child on such person,—the same violence of passion,—the same impetuosity, which would have compelled him to rob me of my child, might in a little time compel him to forsake her for some other, who happened to be calculated to inspire him with *another passion*, the violence and impetuosity of which should *also* be *equally irresistable.*

But how came you, I pray you in so short a space as less than four months, to be smitten with this violent, this irresistable passion for my Ellen? You appeal to your liability, from the situation you was in, of becoming imperceptibly attached to her—what was your situation?—You studied in my office it is true, and eat at the same table:—You was no further an inmate of my family; I never in any shape put them under your care or protection,—nor introduced them to your attentions,—nor you to theirs'; I *carefully* avoided every thing of the kind.

I am as sensible of my Ellen's merit as any person can be,—but I am not so ridiculous a parent as to suppose either of my daughters such Syrens,—such enchantresses, that a gentleman might not for a few months eat at the same table and study law in an unconnected room in the same house, however susceptible he might be, without falling in love with either of them—much more without falling *irresistably* in love with either;—unless indeed he volunteered the business, by taking great pains to discover their attractions, and to per-

suade himself to yield to them. If, indeed, you availed yourself of my frequent absence,—and of my engagements in court and other places, when in town, to leave your studies, to become the attendant of my daughter, and devote your time to her,—if also, knowing where she visited, you took care to be of the party; if you made yourself the companion of her walks,—I placed you not in *these situations*—your conduct was *without my approbation*;—it was *without my knowledge*,—and flowed from your voluntary choice.

But when, I pray, did your passion *first* become irresistably violent, so as not to be under the control of reason? Was it the first moment you saw my daughter? If not, was it after the second, the twentieth or the hundredth interview; during which you was getting imperceptibly attached?—And was your *imperceptible* attachment so *imperceptibly* formed, that you never discovered you was forming it, until the concealed flame burst forth in an all consuming blaze?

This kind of stuff may do well enough in a ridiculous novel to be swallowed down by a weak ignorant girl, totally ignorant of the world, and its arts, but I cannot think it a compliment to my understanding to be treated with it. And if *such* was *not* the course of your passion, you must have been long sensible of a growing *partiality* before the passion became *irresistable*.—Did not during that time *honor* and *conscience* whisper to you to *desist* from endeavouring *surreptiously* to obtain the affections of an infant *ignorant* of the world,—totally unsuitable to enter into the marriage connexion,—and *incapable* of making, *at present*, a *proper choice?* Did they not tell you, that you was in *all probability*, interfering with the views, which her father might have for her,—and about to *interrupt domestic harmony and happiness?* What put it out of your power to have *listened* to those *friendly* monitors, and to have avoided every consequent *disagreeable occurrence?* Did you not, for to yourself I will appeal, *voluntarily stifle* the *voice* of *those counsellors*, and *deliberately form* the *design* of *indulging that attachment*, you felt for my daughter, and *deliberately to ensnare* her affections, *cautiously*, *solicitously*, *guarding* against a *suspicion on my part*,—in the hope, as you very fairly acknowledge, in your letter now before me, that my affection for my children might induce me to bestow my daughter upon

any person, who might be artful enough to ensnare her affections?

I *do love* my daughters—*infinitely too well* to sacrifice their happiness!

It might probably have occurred to you, that the *more I loved them*, the *more I wished them to be happy*, *the more must I condemn that man*, who would take *advantage* of their *infancy* to *steal into their affections*, *concealing* his views from their *father*, who in such case ought never to be unconsulted; that to *respect* their choice, that *choice* must be made under proper circumstances,—and at a proper age.—And that it no more followed, as a consequence, that because I loved my child, and wished to see her happy, I should indulge her with a husband, whom I disapproved, because she had been deluded by him into a good opinion of him, than that I should indulge her in *chalk* and *unripe trash*, because a depraved appetite sought after it,—or with a draught of *poison*, because she happened, not knowing its nature, to long for it!

But though you seem to admit, there are reasons why I *ought not to consent* to your marriage for *some years*, yet you tell me you were "induced to *hope*, that my confidence in the *realization* of every prospect you *anticipated*, might *possibly* induce me to agree *during that period of anticipation* to an *endearing intercourse* that would in the *interchange of sentiment*, in the *exclusion* of *sensual impulse*, *overflow the soul* with *exquisite* and *refined delight*, and *gradually* and *effectually*, produce that *harmony*, and *congeniality of thought* that would constitute the principal *pledges* of *matrimonial bliss*."—What an elegant,—what a brilliant paragraph would this make in a modern sentimental novel! And, indeed, it is unfit for any other place!

I, Sir, know mankind a little too well! from the days of those sentimental scoundrels, Rousseau and Stern, who have endeavoured to render ever *virtuous affection* of the female breast the *panders* of vice, it has not been the fashion to keep up an *intercourse* of a *sentimental nature* between *young people* of *different sexes*, for the purpose of *excluding* sensual impulse but for the very reverse; nor have I the smallest desire that the *soul* of either of my daughters should be *overflowed* with such exquisitely refined delight—I should much fear that the poor soul would be entirely wafted away and never more be found.

But to be serious I thought you, long since, knew my sentiments, too well, with regard to the whole race of sentimentalists to have blotted the paper with the sentence I have transcribed.

That parent who could consent to permit a young daughter not at present of an age suitable to be married, possessed of a partiality for any young man, to live with him for years, in that *endearing*, *sentimental* intercourse which you describe, thereby hazarding her happiness, her respectability and even her innocence;—at all events, most probably strengthening her attachment for him,—merely for the experiment, to see whether anticipation would be realized,—when at the end of the period realization might not have taken place,—and when thereby her disappointment and her unhappiness would be more insupportable;—a parent, who could suffer a child to be so *entangled* for years that she should be cut off from every chance of being sought after by worth and merit,—and excluded from every chance of forming an alliance respectable and happy; that parent, I say, who could so act, would be a *fool* or a *mad man*, and *undeserving* of a child to be by him cherished and made happy!—What could have induced you, for a moment, to have suspected me capable of such folly or madness I cannot conceive.—Nor can I conceive how you was to have "*evinced to me, even in advance*, a worthiness of that confidence" which you wished to be *immediately* bestowed on you, and that in so peculiar a case!

You speak of my Ellen as the subject of your earthly adorations, and the loveliest object to you in the creation.

These appellations again would most charmingly become a sentimental novel. But have you forgot that I was a witness but a few short months before my daughters came from New-York, to your uttering all these *idle* extravagancies in favour of Miss ———; she was then every thing beautiful, every thing good, and every thing adorable on earth,—almost in heaven,—for her you had then that irresistable that violent love which had through the impetuosity of your passions, hurried you into a conduct which lost you the hospitable roof under which you was sheltered. How comes it, Sir, that the objects of your affections always happen to be almost infant children, and children supposed to possess fortune, and that in the process of your designs upon them, you cautiously shun the suspicions of their parent?—I leave your

conscience to answer the question.—And I speak plainly to you, as a man who knows the human heart too well to be deceived by professions.—My Ellen and Miss ————, had they possessed ten times the merit they do,—and had you been ten times as much exposed to their merit and charms, would never have been thought by you the loveliest objects within the sphere of the creation, nor have excited in your bosom an irresistable passion, had they been considered poor, friendless and indigent!

You found it an easy matter to transfer all the violence of your affections from Miss ————; in a few short months she sunk into the character of a female uninteresting to you; and lo! you invested my Ellen with all the attributes of your divinity.—She *cannot be* such.—One effort is all that is necessary.—You can as easily lay aside your present unbounded passion for her, as you did that for Miss ————, and I hope you may make of it a happy transfer to some more benificent Divinity, with whom you may be more happy. And to convince you of the propriety of so doing, I shall speak to you with plainness, and treat you as a man of the world, whose interest has at least a share in his actions.—I shall convince you that it is not your interest to pursue any longer an object, when the pursuit can only be productive of uneasiness and pain probably to all parties, but cannot be attended with happiness or interest to yourself.

I believe it would be impossible to induce my beloved child to forget and violate her duty to her father; but should you be able so to do, you would take a beggar to your arms.—The *child* that could *renounce* her *father*, should *forever* be by her *father renounced*.—And the man who could pervert her mind, and lead her thus to *violate* the *duty* she owed to *her father*, should never reap the fruits of his arts:—he should never enjoy one farthing of that property, which her father had devoted his life to acquire for the sake of his daughters, that they might enjoy the same with husbands, who should meet his approbation.—Having thus explained myself, I flatter myself, sufficiently, I need only further say, that if you solicit my forgiveness with the least hope of my countenancing your views on my child;—my permitting or winking at the endearing, sentimental

intercourse, of which you have spoken so feelingly ;—it is out of the question.

But if retreading the down-hill path, you have for some time travelled, you will once more ascend the summit of honour and rectitude, *you* shall find *me* ready *to render you services. Esteem and friendship* are not *voluntary* feelings ; when once lost or weakened, they must be regained by meriting them. But *services* are *voluntary*.—I wish not to injure you, though I cannot bestow a beloved child upon you : nor think because I highly disapprove your conduct in this instance, that I would not wish you to be happy and successful while pursuing happiness in a line where propriety may direct your course.—Arouse then from a useless and improper pursuit—shake off those fetters with which you have chained down your exertions, and display the energies of your mind in laudable and honourable attainments and pursuits, you shall never experience from me any marks of enmity, or want of co-operation in all such exertions, as can be with propriety countenanced and supported by,

Your humble servant,

LUTHER MARTIN.

Richard Raynal Keene, Esq.

October 5, 1801.

Before I close this number, I shall just observe, that when I mentioned the arrangement, which had been made, by which Mr. Keene met my daughters at Mr. Whitehead's, and of which I have no doubt he was the prime cause, I in no respect meant to implicate either of the young ladies with intentionally being instrumental, or privy to his views. They stand infinitely too high in my estimation to suppose either of them would designedly forward a meeting between him and my daughter, supposing it to be contrary to my wishes.—And it is proper here further to mention, that I have reason to believe I was mistaken, when I stated Miss R. to be in the number of our friends, who met at the George in the morning—the mistake, however, is immaterial ;—Mr. Keene was there, and every other circumstance took place as I have before related.

LUTHER MARTIN.

MODERN GRATITUDE.

" The learned Lover lost no time nor tyde,
That least advantage might to him afford.
Whenso in *open place* and *commune bord*
He fortuned her to meet, with *commune speach*
He courted her, yet bayted every word,
Lest that his gentle *Host* mote him *appeach*
Of *vile ungentleness* or *hospitages breach*.
But *when apart* (if ever her apart
He found) then his *false engins fast he plyde*
And *all the sleights enbosom'd in his hart*."

(No. III.)

HAVING stated in the last number that Mr. Keene the second day after our return from Annapolis, wrote a long letter, or as he calls it " a note," to my daughter Maria, I shall now, having obtained the original from New-York, here give it to the public ; it is as follows—

My Dear Miss Maria,

Your disapprobation of my wishes in relation to Miss Ellen, which disapprobation particularly as it cannot have been without influence upon an affectionate father who has ample cause to admire both your head and your heart, you may,

perhaps suppose, has excited my enmity towards you;—and the enmity of any person, however impotent, I am sure you would rather avoid than incur. Let me assure you, then, for your own satisfaction, as well as for the satisfaction of my own feelings, that no particle of resentment has place within me.

Indeed, so far from it, I *most truly assure you* that I feel a lively and sincere regard for you: And, however, I may regret the unfortunate circumstances which render your opposition necessary in your estimation, *yet I frankly confess that I admire and applaud the motives which give rise to it.—For I believe them to be the suggestions of duty and affection to your father and sister.* (2)

In my turn, deprecating the unfavourable sentiments of others, I feel a particular regret, that one like yourself whom I have been disposed, and I trust ever will be, to feel the sincerest friendship and respect for, should consider me an object worthy of censure and dislike. Do then, my dear Miss Maria, let me intreat you, as your approbation generally would give me pleasure, and your disapprobation pain, to no small degree, to view my conduct with an indulgent eye, and to decide upon it with liberality and mercy. I never for a moment, obtained my consent to render injustice and ingratitude to your father, or any of his children. Situated as I have been, and formed of human materials, I became pleased with your sister and insensibly progressed till I loved her with the warmest and purest affection. That self-partiality and vanity which are attributes of our nature, may have disposed me to have overvalued myself in setting up pretentions to Miss E. I considered without any inducement upon the score of fortune capable of becoming that woman whom of all others I would hail by the sacred appellation of wife.

I flattered myself that the profession I have attached myself to, would enable me to support her in a way commensurate with her own prudent ideas of living. I believed her to be of a correct, temperate, and domestic turn of mind,

2. I recommend this sentence to the attention of those who have heard him assign Maria's disapprobation of his forming a connexion with her sister to a cause very different,—as a proof of his utter disregard for truth and of his malignity—or of his art and duplicity! He is welcome to determine whether he shall be wrecked on Scylla or Charybdis.

without any wish for splendid, dissipated and extravagant life. But at all events, I knew that the means of a liberal education, and a sincere and strong disposition to fulfil the important duties of husband should with the most ardent and unremitting zeal be employed by me for the advancement of her happiness. In this respect I felt it impossible that any candidate whomsoever for her affections could surpass me. And by this estimate of my capability of procuring the means of respectable life and the actual possession of a disposition to use those means aright did I hold myself excusable in indulging a wish for an union with Miss E.— *Your view and your Papa's of such capability and disposition on my part, however, I cannot but deplore, are different from my own.* May it suffice you then that you hold me innocently mistaken in my view of the propriety of my pretentions; and not criminally so, so as knowingly and deliberately to have sought to have degraded your sister from her proper station and rank in society in order to gratify my own wishes, when I could not think that I deserved such gratification. *As to her age though very young, yet from her extraordinary growth she is as capable of interesting the sensibility and affections as young ladies generally much more advanced in life. I know her to be much too young to be married now even if my situation warranted it:* though that objection was every moment lessening, and was certain of removal within *about two years.*

As to *secrecy*, that is naturally attendant upon love; but which in our case was not long indulged after an explanation between us. For such explanation only took place on the 19th of last month. Ere this I should have communicated freely with Mr. Martin had it not been that I was admitted on the theatre of my profession, and I was anxious that he should first have an opportunity of judging of my performance and prospect of success, This consideration constituted the sole bar, without which a full disclosure had at once been made. (3)

3. If he was fearful to inform me of his secret, even after he had entered into the practise of the law, until I should have an opportunity to judge how far he was likely to become respectable in his profession,—he most certainly ought to have avoided, as every thing the most dishonourable, the attempt to secretly and insidiously ensnare my daughter's affections in that state of uncertainty!

No interview or assignment between Miss E. and myself was ever planned or attempted. The walk with Miss **** and Mr. **** in the park was I aver, as I told you before for *their accommodation* as Mr. **** did not visit at ****'s. *True it is* that I *conversed with you so as to divert your attention from the object of your suspicion, (4) because I considered myself under no obligation to be candid with any person but Mr. Martin, and deferred an explanation with him for the reasons already stated.* From this view of the subject, I hope you will make allowance for the suggestions of my self-partiality and vanity as already mentioned, and view me not as an ingrate or an enemy to your father. For I can with *religious confidence appeal to my God (5) for the truth of my declaration that I never once in the slightest degree calculated that the establisment of my happiness in the possession of your sister would militate against the interest of your father.* And over and above my love for Miss E. excited by her own good qualities to induce me to make her happiness the first of earthly objects with me, I knew that the recollection of Mr. M's services to me would ever add to my solicitude for the attainment of that object. And although I could not help thinking that you considered me inferior to your sister, yet I sanguinely hoped that your confidence in your father would reconcile you to the consummation of my happiness in

4. He here admits that he had been guilty of *deliberate falshood* to my daughter Maria, to *deceive*, and *impose* on her.—His excuse for which is, that he did not think himself bound to be *candid* with *her*, or with any person but *myself*, with whom he most certainly has never been candid !—To all those, to whom he has uttered his misrepresentations and falshood, relative to myself and my connexions, he has a ready answer—when he is detected, he has only to say, "I considered myself under no obligation to be candid with you,"—"I Therefore considered myself as having a privilege, if it was to my advantage, to declare what was *false*"—he is certainly not of the *Old School.*

5. I much doubt from this appeal, whether he considers himself under any greater obligations to be candid to his God than with my daughter; and the more so as it is directly in contradiction to his declarations to me both in personal conversation, and in his letter in which he has acknowledged he believed or apprehended that I should not approve of him as the husband of a daughter of mine—nay, that I could never forgive him for attempting to engage the affections of my child.

the event of his approbation, *which was ever considered an indispensable condition.* (6)

Thus then do me the justice to believe *that I contemplated no dismemberment of your family, nor inroads upon your domestic enjoyments* (7) My view was far otherwise. Self-interest at the expence of other's interest formed no part of the picture on which I have fondly, alas! too fondly gazed. I beheld myself through the medium of anticipation, incorporated with a family *the head of which I could not only love but revere* and for yourself, *your sister and her husband* (8) I knew *I could cherish and act upon every sentiment and disposition of the fondest and most disinterested brother. And thus by indulging a disposition to give pleasure to others to enjoy exquisite pleasure myself.* (9)

This fair image however of social and domestic bliss, *vanishes from the sight*, while exciting the most rapturous sensations and leaves its dearest station to be occupied by *the oppressive gloom of disappointment.*

As long however as the gratification of my wishes is objected to, so long shall every endeavour on my part for such gratification be faithfully suppressed. (10) In the mean time, however, let me request that perfect harmony and good will may subsist and be kept up between us.

Be assured that I am,
With profound respect
And sincere esteem,
Your humble servant,

R. R. KEENE.

Thursday, June 18, 1801.

6 & 7. Insidious wretch! These assurances were made to lull into what he calls "insecure security." They were insincere at the time,—and have ever been disregarded in practice.

8. Meaning Mr. and Mrs. Scott of New-York.

9. The disposition which he has indulged towards *them* in order to give them pleasure, is precisely similar to that which a certain gentleman who lived some thousand years past of the name of *Cain* indulged in order to give pleasure to his brother *Abel*—whether Mr. Keene has thereby enjoyed as exquisite pleasure as Mr. Cain enjoyed is not for me to determine.

10. This may be coupled with a former note as an additional proof of his insidious art, his insincerity, and duplicity;—for he then did not intend to act consistantly with these professions—and hath constantly acted in their direct violation.

Nearly about the time, I rather think a few days before, that I received Keene's letter of the 30th September, published in my last number, I received one in the hand-writing, and with the signature of my Eleonora, but which I did, and ever shall believe, was either dictated by him or copied by her from one written by him, the stile and language was so different from the easy familiar manner of her correspondence and so similar to the turgid, laboured, *uphill* (11) stile of Mr. Keene. In this letter she frankly avowed her partiality for Mr. Keene, endeavoured, as far as possible, to free him from censure—spoke of the kindness I had shewn him—the respectability of his connexions, of which the dear girl, except as to one family in this city, could know nothing but what she learned from himself—of the attentions he received in this place—and the respect shewn to him, the *reality of which*, and the *cause* of *its apparency* I knew much better than she did;—and assured me that "in the destitution (12) of a brother, she had been led from his attentions to her, and from his constant Eulogiums on me to consider him almost in that character."

That I did not read this letter without real distress may be easily believed by any parent, who has been in a similar situation, or who can possibly contemplate that my case may be his own.

The first opportunity I could have a probability of being uninterrupted, I sent for her into the room where I was sitting on the sofa, and requested her to seat herself by me.

I then, holding her letter in my hand, in the most affectionate manner, read to her the whole; and as I went on commented upon it paragraph by paragraph. I stated to her how far the ideas, she had been led to entertain concerning him, were just,—informed her of certain facts within my own knowledge—read to her the first and second letters, which I have published, or parts of those letters,—appealed to herself that in no instance of my conduct I had encouraged the least intimacy between him and my children—it was true I had never cautioned her not to fall in love with him,—but

11. I cant read two sentences of Keene's composition, without being out of breath. I would as soon walk from the foot of the Allegany mountain to its summit as to read twenty pages.

12. That word most certainly was furnished by Keene.

I had thought it totally needless, as I could not suppose such an event possible, nor did I think she would have considered it a compliment to her, had I thought such caution necessary.—I told her further that I had unconquerable objections to her marrying any person however dear he might be to me, until she was some years older; and explained to her my reasons, assuring her that I should, was I to assent to her marriage at so early an age, consider myself accessary to her death, as I did not believe she would in such case live two years.

I concluded by assuring her that though I claimed it as a sacred right to prohibit a child, young as she was, and so incapable of judging correctly of characters, from marrying without my consent, yet would I never attempt to influence her to marry any man against her full approbation; and that as she must know from the whole tenor of my life towards her, that nothing but the sincerest desire for her future happiness and respectability, could induce me to oppose her present wishes in this instance—so should it be my study to oblige her in every other wish she might form consistent with that respectability and happiness; and that I doubted not if she lived, and followed my advice, she would consider my present conduct towards her among the kindest favours I had ever conferred upon her.

I have powerful reasons to believe that my Eleonora at this time did form the determination to be obedient to the dictates of her father, and to act in conformity to his sentiments; —and that she would so have acted had it not been for events which I shall hereafter disclose.

It was but a short time after my answer to Mr. Keene's letter of the 30th of September, that the following letter came into my hands, and which I presume, though it is without date was written immediately after mine of the 5th of October,—and which had been sent by Mr. Keene to my daughter, and some short time in her possession.

" I hastily prepare a line for my dearest Ellen, against an opportunity occurs of sending it. Your precious note which I got yesterday evening, gave me most exquisite pleasure; I must again express to you my thanks for it, and again request that my beloved Ellen will confer upon her R. as often as she conveniently can, those delightful favours. Our per-

tonal intercourse, my Ellen, is cut off, and writing is the only substitute we can have—do then, my dearest Eleonora, let us avail ourselves of this substitute—be assured that your shortest communications will always give delight to your R. As ***, *** (13) for I must put a comma between the two names, and myself were coming up street yesterday after parting from you, we met *Maria*, and **** (14) at Dr. B's corner, the former viewed me with a scowl upon her brow. **** told me after we passed on, that when they met **** and myself going down Market-street to the boarding-house next to you, where I wished to see a gentleman upon some particular business, Maria said "there was Keene going down to make a visit to Ellen, and that she wished to turn back." Under the influence of this suspicion as wild and unjust as it is, for he even knows that I did not expect to see you, unless it was an *accidental* glance as I passed on, I fear, my beloved Eleonora, you were again, on the return of Maria, subjected to the *indignity of her illiberal reflections*, and abuse.—Why will Maria *so wantonly and tyrannically endeavour to stab the sensibility of* Eleonora. (15) But my lovely girl shall *yet triumph over* those *cruel* and *unjust* attempts against her—and become *establihsed* in an *asylum* (16) where *quiet* and *happiness shall reign*, and *taunting abuse* and *insolent sneers* be *entirely shut out*—yes my Ellen, your generous, sincere and benevolent disposition deserves it, and shall receive that tender, *dignified* and affectionate treatment thus deserved by you. Your disposition I am well acquainted with and know that it renders you capable of *noble* and *dignified pleasure*, but the *mode* of *life* to which you are *now subject*, *doth not suit your disposition* and *dashes your every draught of pleasure with bitterness* and *poison*, you *have no proper sphere* wherein to *exercise*

13 & 14. Respectable and worthy friends and acquaintances of mine and my daughters, and *intimate with them*—in whose company of course Keene endeavoured to be as much as he conveniently could.

15. Never was a charge more unfounded. From the moment I had reason to suppose Eleonora had any regard for Keene—Maria and myself cautiously avoided saying or doing any thing unnecessarily to wound her feelings,—It is true that Maria, as was her duty to her sister and myself, when she saw her keeping up a correspondence and intercourse with Keene, contrary to my express commands, remonstrated with her upon the impropriety of her conduct.

16. Poor, unhappy child, *once* so dear, but *now* lost to me—what is your *triumph*, and where is your *asylum*?

the faculties either of *your mind or your person*—the *empty, giddy pleasures* of *visiting* and *dashing about* in stages or packets, (17) and then being *shut up* to *bear with Maria's taunts and sneers* are not suited to the *steady, cordial and amiable* disposition of my Ellen, and *far different indeed* from those *respectable, substantial* and *refined domestic endearments*, in which her *noble soul would delight in the enjoyment of.* Fare well my beloved Ellen, and think of your affectionate R."

My readers have had specimens sufficient of what kind of letters he can write to fathers—I have now given them a specimen of the kind of love-letters he can write to their daughters.—They will see that, like his great proto-type in the garden of Eden, he knows vanity to be the weak-hold of a woman, and that flattery, gross flattery, is the best artillery with which to make the attack.

This letter must, as far as I can judge, have been written in less than a week from the time his last letter was written to me.—Can any person, who compares them together think it possible a man could be found capable of writing them both? I never read this letter, and reflect upon his subsequent conduct, but I feel it difficult to refrain from falling on my knees and imploring the Supreme Being to shower down all his curses upon his head.

This letter had been sent to my daughter by the hands of a respectable lady intimate in my family, dear to myself and to my children.

I met her a few days after in the street, and taking her affectionately by the hand, I told her I was sure it was impossible for her intentionally to interfere with, or interrupt the happiness of those who considered her almost as a child and a sister, but that she had been made use of by Mr. Keene to deliver a letter to my Eleonora. She candidly acknowledged it, but assured me she was ignorant of its contents, or that there was any impropriety in what she had done, for I had preserved so delicate a silence towards him, even

17. He here alludes to her journey with myself and her sister to Boston. I wonder not he disapproved it, for during the time it removed her out of his way and he dreaded the effects of absence, well knowing that she could not open her eyes in any company without seeing gentlemen, who ought to be considered much more attractive than himself.

unto that period, that many of those most intimate in my family were totally strangers to the real situation in which we stood to each other.—When she knew that he was keeping up a clandestine intercourse with a friend, whom she greatly loved, and which met my fixed disapprobation—and could only terminate in her misery, if he succeeded in his views ; she assured me she never would be the bearer of another and regretted what had passed. She has since, in conversation with me, wept for the situation of my unhappy child, and I believe from that time exerted all her influence with her to prevail on her to act in obedience to my will.

In consequence of having become possessed of the foregoing letter to my Eleonora, I sent him the following—

SIR,

I am in possession of a letter written by you to my daughter a short time past, which incontestibly proves that *no dependence* can be placed on any *assurances* you ever made to me concerning your future conduct, if you remained at Baltimore ; and equally proves your *extreme insincerity* in the artful pretence that such parts of your conduct, in Philadelphia and on the Eastern Shore, as indicated an attempt to continue a correspondence or intimacy with any part of my family, were entirely accidental and proceeded not from design ; for in this letter you solicit her in the strongest terms to keep up a clandestine correspondence with you, and inform her she " shall be established in an asylum, where quiet and happiness shall reign."

And, are *you* the person, who is to furnish her with such an asylum ?—I pray you *when*, or *where ! !* Filial obedience is one of those duties most strictly enjoined by the laws of God.—And the more virtuous even of the Heathen considered the child as a monster, who could be deficient therein.

Can *you* Sir, furnish her with *an asylum*, which can secure her from the *anger* of an *offended Deity*,—from the *displeasure* of an *injured father*,—from that *bitter remorse*, which will one day *tear her heart*, should *she persist* in the conduct you recommend ?—An asylum that will save her from the *heart-felt pangs* she will endure from the *loss of her friends* and *her father*,—from the *loss of fortune*, and from *all the attendant distresses ?* And when *you* find yourself dis-

appointed in your *principal object*,—when *you* find that to her *prayers* and *to her tears* I will be as *deaf and as blind* as she must have been to my advice, my commands, my entreaties and my tears,—when *you* find that instead of having bettered your situation, you shall have only involved yourself, in the additional cares and expences of a family,—that you have thereby deprived yourself even of the chance of forming a more beneficial connexion ; in short that you are covered with *crime*, not only without *reward* but with *actual punishment*—will this asylum *protect her* from the *cutting regret*,—from the " *insulting taunts*" not of her sister, but of *the man for whom* she shall *have sacrificed her duty*,—*and given up the fairest prospects of happiness ! ! !* Or, when freed from the fascination she hath been under, *her eyes* shall be opened to behold *you*, an *ungenerous monster*, who, availing yourself of her infantine youth,—her ignorance and inexperience, and consequent incapacity to form a correct judgment of character, to artfully *steal* into her good opinion, had dashed her from the *summit of felicity* into an *abyss of misery* ; will your profered asylum secure *even yourself* from *her abhorrence* and *detestation* with all their consequences ! !

But you tell her, " in *this* asylum *quiet and happiness shall reign*."

It is almost impossible to suppress indignation so far as to keep language within bounds.

You *found* her *in an asylum*, where quiet and happiness *did indeed reign*.—You found a family *happy indeed*,—even to be envied. *Each* member of it *loving* and *beloved*.—*Each happy themselves*, and *rendering each other happy* ;—my children loving each other, and *affectionate* and *dutiful* to *their father* ;—*they were* his *joy* and his *pride* :—when *you* like *another fiend* from *hell*, *insidiously*, *clandestinely*, *crept* within the walls of this Eden to destroy, if possible, that happiness,—to enkindle flames of discord, and to introduce misery !—This *noble*, this *honourable* undertaking was reserved for *you !*

Because regarding the peace and happiness of her *sister* and *her father*, my Maria has shewn a disapprobation of a correspondence between her sister and yourself, you tell my Ellen " that she is subjected to the indignity of her illiberal reflections, and abuse, and wonder that Maria will so wantonly and tyrannically stab her sensibility."

At the same time you assure her she " shall *yet triumph* over those cruel and unjust attempts against her" when, in truth, it is *you*, and *you alone*, who are *cruelly* and *ungenerously* endeavouring to stab my dear Eleonora to the heart,—and by reason of her sensibility to inflict the most dangerous wound.—And also while *that triumph* of which you so confidently assure her, would, should it take place, be only the *depth* of *humiliation*, accompanied by *dishonor*, *disgrace* and *misery! !* Thus have you already shewn that my Maria has, as I expected she would, become the object of the same *vindictive malignity* to which Mrs. —— on a similar occasion was exposed.

That my Ellen is possessed of a generous, sincere and benevolent disposition, which *deserves happiness*, and not the *wretchedness*, to which you would doom her, I readily admit ; but this only aggravates, in a tenfold degree, the reverse of those qualities in you, that *want of generosity*, that *duplicity*, and that *malevolence* which have marked your conduct towards her and her family. As to how far you are capable in return to shew her any thing *tender*, *dignified* or *affectionate*, I have already too woefully experienced.—She will, if she lives, be one day capable to judge !

That her disposition renders her capable of noble and dignified pleasure I am as fully convinced as, that you are one of the most unsuitable persons she could have met with to confer it.

But the mode of life, to which she is now subjected,—that is, her residing under the protection of an affectionate father,—indulged with every means of acquiring elegant improvement,—supplied with an excellent collection of Books for the cultivation of her mind, and the improvement of her heart,—having only to express a wish, and sure, unless extremely capricious, or injurious to herself, to have it gratified,—at a considerable expence, associated with her father, as his friend and the companion of his travels, when he visits different parts of the continent, and thereby introduced in the most respectable manner, to the most respectable characters in the United States,—all this, which few, very few daughters enjoy, and for which thousands would think themselves blest,—you tell my child is not a mode of life, that ought to suit her disposition,—but ought to *dash her every draught* of *pleasure* with *bitterness* and *poison*. You further

tell her this is not *a proper sphere* to *exercise* the *faculties of her mind*, nor thou most delicate of men, of *her person*; No,—it seems it is *only* in that *dignified* station, in which *you* are to *place her*, that she will be able properly to exercise the one or the other.

The pleasures she now enjoys under the protection and unbounded indulgence of her father, and which you so modestly call *empty* and *giddy*, and describe as consisting only in dashing about in stages or packets, and then, as with *total want of truth*, you say, being shut up to bear with Maria's taunts and sneers, are not in your opinion, "suited to the steady, cordial, and amiable disposition of my Ellen, and are far different indeed from those *respectable*, *substantial* and *refined domestic endearments*, which her noble soul would delight in, and which, Oh! thou mirror of modesty, she is to enjoy with you, so infinitely superior to any thing she has met with in a domestic situation the most endearing, in which she was before she knew you, and which, but for you, she would have till now enjoyed *without the least diminution!*

Like the murderous Cain, you have endeavoured to instil into the mind of my child hatred and rancour against her sister,—but you have even improved upon his system, for you have endeavoured to inspire her infant heart with contempt and hatred for her father.—You have sought even to induce her to consider his *kindest favours* as *insult and injury*.

You charge my Maria with having *scowled* upon you when she met you in the street; you well know that her countenance and her feelings are generally in unison.—Do you suppose it possible, that, as a friend to her sister or her father she can view, without *abhorrence*, the man whom she beholds acting as you are acting,—when also her generous mind was prevented at an early period from disclosing to me her suspicions in consequence of *your entreaties*, your *solemn assurances* that they were *without foundation* and *your declarations* that you must be *the basest of men* if *they* were *just?* To your own sense of propriety and honor I can appeal, when I ask you whether you believe *it possible* for *any person* possessed of a correct knowledge of your conduct, *to view you otherwise* than with *abhorrence* and *detestation?* Have you not acknowledged all this to me?—Have you not admit-

ted that your conduct was such that you thought I never could forgive you?—That you was willing to leave this part of the country entirely? And when, not wishing to injure you, or interfere with your honourable or honest pursuits in life, I desired no such sacrifice, and only requested you would act with that propriety and honour which you promised.—*How have I been rewarded! and in what manner have you respected those engagements!!*

I am not unapprized that you have attempted to account for my Maria's displeasure by representing it as proceeding from a conduct on your part friendly to her and to me.

That you was not a favourite with her before she ever heard the name of ——, and before the theatre was opened, you cannot be ignorant.—But, Sir, do you wish to have your conduct, as to **** or the **** publicly discussed, no person connected with me will shrink from it.—How readily did you retract to my child your assertions against the first, and express your willingness to encourage his visits, when you found she was seriously offended? And are you not conscious that you attempted to injure two lovely girls with their father and their friend on account of a conduct, which you countenanced, participated in, and, at least to a certain degree, caused. (18)

One word more as to my Maria, you perhaps have forgotten, that you wrote, and most probably do not know that I am in possession of, about two sheets of paper addressed to my Maria, in the most adulatory stile, the object of which was to conciliate her good will and reconcile her to your views;—written some time since her return from Annapolis, which you are extremely welcome to have as public as you please if you think it will do any credit to your head or to your heart. (19)

I am informed you have suggested that on the Eastern Shore I have done you great injury;—the charge is without truth, if it has been made.—To one person *only*, and that in the *most confidential* manner, did I suggest the situation in which you and I stood; and to that *necessity your conduct* reduced me—and on this Shore I have been *scrupulously si-*

18. The foregoing paragraph was well understood by Mr. Keene; it is not material here to explain it.

19. The letter published in this number.

lent, until within a short time past, your conduct has become so much a subject of notice as to compel me in a *few*, but very *few* instances to explain it.—It was my *sacred wish* the secret should never have been known.—And *of this delicacy you have taken undue advantage.*

For one thing I do *now indeed* blame myself, it is that the moment I became acquainted with your conduct towards Mr. B's family, I had not dissolved forever all connexion between us.—For this my Eleonora has a right to reproach me—and, thus having a right to reproach me with almost culpably exposing her to your arts, I feel under ten-fold obligations to save her. In my excuse, I can only say, censurable as you then appeared to me, I did not think you capable of the conduct, which I have since experienced.

But, Sir, if you have no regard for myself or my Ellen,—whatever desire you may feel to render us unhappy, you ought at least to have some regard for your own future happiness, and respectability in life.—What security can you have that the woman, who shall have violated the first and greatest duties, those which she owes to her father will scrupulously perform those she owes to a husband? A man, *much more amiable and engaging in his person and in his manners*, and *artful like yourself*, may induce her to think that the *obligations of a wife* are as *ridiculous*, *unnatural* and *absurd*, as *you wish* my Ellen to think *are those of a child.*—And in such case, *ought she not to treat your complaints or reproaches* with *contempt* and *scorn?* Ought not she tauntingly to say "*you* found me young, innocent and virtuous,—it was *you*, who poisoned my infant mind, and perverted my principles—*you* taught me to spurn at the duties I owed to my father—what right had *you* to suppose that, under the influence of similar passion I would not spurn also at *what you* call *duties to a husband?—You* told me that a child ought only to regard her own pleasure and what she considered most for her own happiness,—you *thereby also taught me* that a *wife ought to do the same.* And what right *had you* to suppose the temporary, childish affection with which you had insidiously fascinated my infantine, unexperienced heart, should be less evanescent or more influential to secure me in the path of duty to you, than *was* that permanent love and affection, which I *once* had for my father, which had grown up with me from my birth, and which was merited by him, for unceasingly

devoting himself to me during all that period, in the fondest endeavours to render me happy and respectable, to preserve and secure me in the duties I owed to my father ?" Ought she not on such occasion scoffingly to say, " you made me believe that you could bestow upon me a more dignified happiness than that, which, in peace and innocence, I was enjoying in the bosom of my family ;—that you would place me in a more proper sphere to exercise the faculties of my mind and of my person," then pointing to an accomplished seducer she might tauntingly add, " can you wonder that I should be convinced by that man, that my happiness was not, as *your wife*, sufficiently dignified,—or that I might with him enter upon a sphere more proper, in my opinion, for the exercise of those faculties ?"

Such, Sir, hath, in many instances, been the result of marriages founded upon the violation of filial duty.—I shall only once more address myself to your honour and to your conscience to regulate thereby your future conduct—and to exhort you if *one dormant spark* of *virtue* is *yet* left in your heart,—extinguish it not entirely, but fan it, if possible, into a flame to enlighten and purify your conduct in your future pursuits.

Your humble servant,

LUTHER MARTIN.

Richard Raynal Keene, Esq.

After the before mentioned letter from Keene to my Eleonora, came into my hands and before I sent him my answer, I had another most serious conversation with my child,—I read over his letter to her and remarked upon it,—I expostulated with her on the impropriety of her conduct, in thus keeping up a private correspondence with him in direct violation of my commands,—I assured her she was doing him the greatest of injuries ;—that for every act of disobedience she might commit I should consider him as accountable,—and that, if I originally disapproved of him as a husband for her, she must be satisfied my disapprobation must be greatly increased, and that I could not but detest him, when I found him to thus deliberately, persist, in violating every engagement he had made with me, and procuring her to dis-

regard all the duties she owed to her God and to myself.—I repeatedly, and in the most solemn manner assured her what would be the consequence of her marrying him without my approbation,—and while I pressed her to my heart, with tears emplored her to save both her and myself from such wretchedness!

When I had finished my letter to Mr. Keene, I wrote a letter to my child in which I again reiterated the sentiments I had expressed in our conversation, which I gave to her—and also requested her to copy for me, as I had not leisure, my letter to Keene, assuring her that I did not make this request with a view of hurting her feelings, or giving her pain, but because I did not wish any other person, not even her sister, to be privy to our correspondence—and also, that by so doing she would herself better know my fixed and unalterable determination.—It is from the copy, which she made for me, that I have transcribed it for the press.

It was but a few days after when a friend of mine in this place suggested to me that I was in danger of losing my daughter, that there was a secret correspondence still kept up by Mr. Keene with her, and that it was reported they were engaged to each other, and were speedily to be married.

I told him that I could not apprehend any *immediate* danger, for that they *both* acknowledged the *impropriety of marrying for some years*,—and well knew I never would urge her to marry any person without her free consent—and also that I would not consent to her marrying any other person at present.

On finding however there were such reports in circulation, I wrote to him the following letter.

" SIR,

" I have once more to address you on a subject, which cannot be very agreeable to either of us.—Notwithstanding what has heretofore passed between us, it is publicly reported that you yet make pretentions to my infant child, and keep up a clandestine correspondence with her by letters and otherwise.

" When you was about to become an inmate in my family, had I expressed any scruples to have received you, lest the

consequences, which have since taken place might be realized, you would immediately have told me, and probably with some degree of warmth, that it was impossible you could be so base a villain!—and would have considered yourself injured by the suspicion.

" I now once more inform you that if you *persist* in your designs on my Eleonora,—if you do hope to prevail upon her to violate the duty she owes to her God and to an affectionate father, and *flatter yourself* that afterwards *a foolish, ridiculous weakness* towards a child, who having such a father, should so act, would induce me to *forgive her*, and be *reconciled to her*;—and to suffer the person, who, circumstanced as you have been, had so far seduced an infant and perverted her principles as to *cause* her to contemn that duty to her God and to her father, afterwards to enjoy one farthing of that fortune, I have intended for her, you build on a most sandy foundation—I would infinitely sooner bestow it on the beggar in the street.—No, Sir, I give you *timely notice*,—in the presence of my God, I solemnly swear to you, could my daughter ever be induced to act so ungrateful and undutiful a part towards her father, I would suffer her to endure all the miseries, that might attend it.—She should never come within my doors,—I would forever disown her,—nor should she ever enjoy any part of that fortune, to make which, my life has been a *life of toil*,—and just in the same proportion as she is dear to me, would I *detest* the wretch, who was capable of *causing* my child to be thus undutiful and ungrateful—and my child for becoming his dupe.—I now, therefore, once more, acting the part not of an enemy, advise you to *retread* your steps,—once more to assume the station of honour and principle,—and, as you regard your interest and happiness, to fix your residence and pursuits at a different place,—for if you stay here and continue the conduct you have pursued, if you attempt to keep up your connexion with my daughter, I will without any further hesitation, make known the impropriety of your conduct towards me as extensively as it is known that you ever was an inmate in my family, and thereby give every person of our acquaintance an opportunity of judging with what propriety they ought to permit you to visit in their families. Your humble servant,

LUTHER MARTIN.

Richard R. Keene, Esq.

This letter was also copied for me, for the same reasons, by my daughter.

Mr. Keene's letter to Eleonora had no date, and the copies of my two last letters to him have not their dates affixed to them, but they were all written before the 12th day of October, for on that day I went to Annapolis to attend the general court.

I am now under the painful necessity of introducing a *personage* who has been a conspicuous actress in the scenes I am disclosing,—and having no wish to injure any one, but being desirous, as far as justice to myself and those dear to me will admit even to spare them from pain, I shall introduce her by a fictitious name—and notwithstanding her extreme indiscretion by which a child, that *was* so inexpressibly dear to me, has I believe ultimately and principally, been induced to plunge herself into misery, it is with sincere regret that I feel myself conscious her real name will be but too well known in this city.

Last summer, when on our journey to Boston, myself and my children spent two or three days at a place in our way.—In the same house, where we lodged, we found among others a Mrs. Clifford, (20) who appeared to be a very polite and respectable lady,—and I have no reason to suppose that she does not well merit that character,—and her son, a young gentleman, who was travelling with his mother.—In the same place, though not in the same house, was a young lady of, I suppose, about seventeen or eighteen years of age, with her parents, whom while there we several times saw, and with whom we became in some measure acquainted.

The first evening after we left Boston, on our return,—we found all the company I have mentioned at the place where we arrived, and spent part of the evening with them ;—when we were about to part, knowing that Mrs. Clifford and her son were to return, sometime in the fall, through Baltimore, I requested them when they arrived to let us know it, as we should be happy to show them all the attention in our power. Some few weeks after this the marriage of Mrs. Clifford's son to the young lady I have mentioned was announced in the public papers.

Returning to my family from Annapolis on Saturday eve-

20. The fictitious name I have adopted for the family, of which she now is a part.

ning, the seventeenth of October, after some little conversation, my daughter, Maria, informed me that Mrs. C. her son and his lady had arrived in this city, and that she had waited upon them ;—I asked her if her sister went with her, she told me no.—I turned to Eleonora and enquired of her why she had not accompanied her ? She answered me that she had no particular desire to visit them, or to that purpose—I replied, " you ought my dear to have gone if it had been only from motives of politeness ;—you know we informed them that we should be glad to see them when they came to Baltimore ;—however, I will myself wait on them on the morrow, and take you and your sister with me."

Between eleven and twelve the next day we waited on them together, they informed us that they expected to leave town in the course of the week—I invited them to dine with us that day, but they were engaged,—I expressed my regret that I was obliged to leave home that evening for Annapolis, and therefore should not probably, see them again, but expressed my hope they would take dinner next day with my daughters, who would be glad to entertain them,—and who, during the short period they continued in town, would with pleasure *assist* in rendering their time agreeable by their attentions.—We parted,—and I that evening went on for Annapolis, where I was obliged to be by the meeting of the court on Monday morning.

The general court adjourned on Saturday the 31st of October, and I returned to Baltimore on Sunday morning.

I found the elder Mrs. C. had left town ; that the two ladies had dined with my daughters on the Monday in the week preceding, and that a considerable intimacy had in the mean time taken place between the younger Mrs. C. and my daughters, particularly between her and my Eleonora,—and that several visits had been mutually paid and returned. Here it may be necessary to observe that Mr. C. and his lady had taken rooms in a public house in this city, where Mr. Keene usually dined.—Mr. Keene observed the acquaintance of my children with Mrs. C. and their mutual attentions to each other, he instantly fixed upon her as a proper instrument to be subservient to his views on my child.—He introduced himself to Mr. C. insinuated himself into the good graces of his lady, became the most intimate companion of her husband—frequently dined and supped with him, and

was almost the constant attendant on his wife—whom he immediately made his confidential friend and engaged her as his zealous agent between him and my Eleonora for the purpose of more successfully prosecuting his designs.

I found, that even within the first week, *that daughter of Eve* had begun her operations ;—that on a visit she had made to my children, she had in their company ridiculed the idea that girls should shew any respect to the sentiments of a parent in forming a matrimonial connexion,—avowing that they ought to regard nothing but their own inclination, however contrary it might be to a parent's will, and that they need not fear but they would be forgiven—and bringing herself forward as an example to prove the truth of her precepts, she declared, she had married contrary to the wishes of her mother—that her mother had gone down on her knees to her to prevail upon her not to marry, but that she paid no regard to her entreaties, and that what went in at one ear, went out at the other ;—yet, notwithstanding, her mother had immediately forgiven her and restored her to her favour.

I found that on Eleonora's, occasionally leaving the room, Maria had remonstrated with Mrs. C. for thus expressing herself in the company of her sister, suggesting it might be injurious to her and encourage her to act in opposition to the sentiments of her father ;—and that of this remonstrance Mrs. C. had taken the first opportunity to inform Eleonora.—I found Mrs. C. had taken pains to obtain my Eleonora's confidence and to prevail on her to spend as much of her time as possible with her at her lodgings, and that, on such occasions, Mr. Keene was one of the party.

I procured them to dine with me, and soon after they had entered the dining-room, Mrs. C. rising from the sofa, on which she was sitting by me, to follow my Eleonora out of the room, as she rose, I took her by the hand and said to her " if, my dear Madam, you have any influence with that little girl and any regard for her happines, let me intreat you to use it for the purpose of prevailing on her to act consistent with the wishes of her father."—To a lady of correct sentiments I thought such an appeal would have been sufficient ; but I am much mistaken if she did not within half an hour after, when drinking a glass of wine with my child, give, in a half whisper, " success to Mr. Keene" as her

toast.—While we were at table both Mr. and Mrs. C. solicited me to let my Eleonora be of their party when they left the city, and spend the winter with them;—declaring their intention of leaving Baltimore in a short time, and returning in the spring. My child appeared pleased with the proposal.—I thanked them for their politeness and attention to my daughter, but observed that it required some reflection before I could give them an answer.

Besides Mr. and Mrs. C. a gentleman of my intimate acquaintance was at table, who took occasion to introduce Mr. Keene's name, and that in a manner of respect.—I availed myself of the opportunity to convince Mrs. C. of my absolute disapprobation of any connexion between Mr. Keene and my daughter, by expressing, with some warmth, my surprize, that as *he* well knew the situation of my family with regard to Mr. Keene, he could think of introducing his name at my table—the gentleman apologized,—and the conversation took a different turn.

The second of November the court of appeals was to meet by adjournment at Annapolis,—and the circuit court of the United States was to meet at Baltimore on the fifth. I returned to Annapolis, and on the morning of the third, prepared a bill, the legislature being in session, enabling the court of appeals to adjourn the business then before them to the next term, which was to begin on the Tuesday following; this I gave to a friend of mine, one of the representatives for this city, who that day brought it forward in the house and procured its passage into a law. I spent a few hours in the court of appeals, then left Annapolis, and arrived in Baltimore next morning to breakfast and attended the circuit court until the end of the week. On the Saturday, I waited upon Mr. and Mrs. C. at their lodgings—when introduced into their room Mr. Keene was sitting with them.

I had not, as well as I can recollect, on any occasion, spoken to Mr. Keene since the letter which I have published, addressed by him to my Eleonora, came to my hands; when, therefore, I entered the room,—of *him* I took no more notice than I should of a Chinese Mandarin placed on a chimney piece; but paying my compliments to Mr. and Mrs. C. took a seat and familarly entered into conversation with them——In two or three minutes he rose and left the room.—I then addressed myself to Mr. and Mrs.

C. and told them that I had waited on them, for the express purpose of once more thanking them for their politeness to myself and my child, in expressing their wish that she should accompany them when they left Baltimore, and candidly to inform them the reasons, which prevented me from complying with their polite request.—I informed them that I knew Mr. Keene was in habits of great familiarity and intimacy with them, and was treated by them with great respect and esteem ; that I had no wish to deprive him of that esteem, and as little to lessen their respect for him, or to censure them for any attentions shewn to him ; but that he had for some time past made pretentions to my Eleonora, which I could not countenance—that I had insuperable objections to his ever being the husband of my daughter, that I should not enter into any explanation on the subject, it was sufficient I had such objections, of which he and my daughter were well apprized ; and had been solemnly assured that if they did marry contrary to my approbation I would forever renounce them. Having thus explained myself to Mr. and Mrs. C. I added, that I was well satisfied, if they were to leave this place attended by my Eleonora, Mr. Keene would be of their party, either when they left it, or would join them before they proceeded thirty miles.—That either he must be obliged to forbid and prevent a man high in his esteem and intimate with him to be of his company, or Keene would be the constant companion of my daughter—that I could not think of placing him in the one situation, or my daughter in the other, and therefore I flattered myself they would be so good as not to consider it any want of respect towards them that I could not consent my Eleonora should be of their party.

After this explanation, I spent a few minutes with them in general conversation and took my leave of them.

On the next morning which was Sunday, I told my daughters that, as they were going to St. Paul's Church, if after service they would stop at Mr. Tiernan's, I would meet them there and attend them on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. C. for I still was desirous to shew to that gentleman and his lady attention and civility as far as I could with propriety ; and at the same time wished, if my daughters did continue to visit them, they should visit *together*, and attended by their father.

Meeting them according to appointment at Mr. T's, I

found that Eleonora had, in attempting to go out of the back part of his house into the yard, made a false step and sprained her ancle, so that she could not without great difficulty, walk across the room. I immediately procured a carriage in which she returned home.

That afternoon Mrs. C. came to visit my Eleonora, having, as it seems, received a note from her mentioning the accident which had happened, and as Mrs. C. was about to leave us, she gave my Ellen a pressing invitation to spend the next day with her at her lodgings, and promised to send her carriage for her. This invitation was given just as the carriage drove from the door, I therefore, had no opportunity of remonstrating against it.

Some of our friends spent that evening with myself and my daughters—in the intermediate time a letter from Mr. Keene for my Eleonora, was delivered into the hands of one of my servants, who, as my child could not, on account of her lameness, be conveniently called out of the room to receive it, thought it best to put it in a desk, in the adjoining room until the company should leave us, or my Eleonora retire ; but before that period, one of my family happened to open the desk, and seeing the letter, and knowing the hand writing, secured it, and delivered it to me.

This letter was in the following words—

" *My Dearest Eleonora,*

" I heard this afternoon that you had much hurt your foot at Mr. Tiernan's door to-day after you left church, the news is most unfortunate, (21) I hope most devoutly, my beloved girl, that the accident may prove slight. Oh ! my Ellen could I be so blest as to present myself before you, to set by you, to watch over you, to anticipate your wants and to endeavour to alleviate your pain ; how thankful would I be, and how transcendant indeed would I deem such privilege. But alas! my dearest Eleonora, he, and he alone, who would know how most to value such privilege is painfully constrained to keep aloof from your presence. Gracious

21. I presume he meant because it might keep her at home some days.

Heaven, how mysterious are thy ways (22)—with grateful hearts my Ellen and her R. would acknowledge to the Supreme director of events the permission of uninterrupted intercourse. But alas! I say that intercourse is denied us, and those who care not for each other's society is allowed it at discretion. (23) But my beloved Eleonora, Heaven I trust will yet, and *ere long* smile upon our wishes, and grant them consummation; (24) for in those wishes innocent and virtuous as they are, there is nought at which Heaven (25) can take offence. With this consciousness then my Ellen, that our wishes point to an object that is altogether honourable in the sight of men, and virtuous in the sight of Heaven, we will bear up against our *hard and cruel fate*, and dwell on the *near* and *approaching* prospect when our earthly happiness will be complete and repay us for past sufferings.

You know my anxiety to hear from you—that anxiety you will naturally conclude is now greatly increased. Perhaps, my Ellen you can relieve it by letting me hear from you tomorrow. **** (26) will, in all probability, be with you,

22. Prodigiously "*mysterious*", indeed, that Heaven should not work miracles to smooth the way to the union of a man acting upon every principle of duplicity, falsehood and ingratitude, with a child more fit for the nursery, who had lost all sense of affection and duty to her father.

23. A poor compliment to Eleonora, to suppose none of her friends or acquaintance cared for her society.

24. If Mr. Keene had devoted half as much of his time to studying his Bible, as to studying Ovid's Art of Love, he might have learned that the Supreme Being, some times gives up his creatures "to the devices of their own hearts," as the severest punishment which could be inflicted.

25. Certainly not—Ingratitude, falsehood, duplicity, filial impiety—at such *trifles* Heaven cannot be so unreasonable as to take offence!

26. A young lady, who had long been intimate in my family, and on the most friendly terms with my children, whom I much respected and for whose happiness I feel *no common interest*. I took an early opportunity to inform her of the manner in which Mr. Keene had used her name in this letter—and assuring her that if at any time she had been the means of conveying or sending letters to my Eleonora I was sure it must have flowed from that goodness of heart which would lead her to wish to oblige; but that when she reflected that thereby she was contributing to the unhappiness of my family and to the misery of my child, I was equally confident the same goodness of heart would preserve her hereafter from interfering. She assured me that Mr. Keene had done her injustice,—that he had solicited her to convey letters between him and my daughter, but that she had refused and told him in answer she thought it was a case of too much delicacy for her to interfere in it.

and she would take charge of your letter ; but at all events let me hear from you as soon as you can.

My lovely girl, though you will have attention at home, yet it is too evident that your *determination* and *perseverance* in my favour have made you more an object of suspicion than regard. (27) This *present state of things*, however, *shall not last long*. *Railing* I suppose has now got to its *utmost heighth*, and must therefore *diminish*. Your papa as I have written you by Mrs. ——, (28) informed her and her husband yesterday, that he thought me worthy of every respect (29) and that he was willing to admit that I had handsome talents and was a young gentleman of cleverness, &c. only I had behaved in such a manner respecting you, that he never would give his consent to our marriage. I shall write by **** (30)

Good night, and may heaven watch over my beloved Ellen.

R. R. K.

Miss E. M.

On the outside of the letter was written—

" Perhaps you can send Isaac (31) with some message to Mrs. —— (32) to-morrow, and at the same time enclose a letter for me to her, giving him a strict charge about it,—be sure to mention *whatever may have transpired* relating Jas. C. (33) I fear some plan is in agitation *to get you off with him*. Unless *we both* agree to it, I hope *you will never give into it*, but *by force*."

27. That she was an object of suspicion, and could not but be such, is certain, if the expression may be correctly used when there was *certainty*.—But at the same time *she continued* an *object* of the *tenderest regard*—and was daily, while she was setting all my advice at nought—disregarding all my commands, and even inflicting torture on my soul, receiving from me the most marked, the most distinguished kindness and affection.

28. Here was inserted the *real* name of Mrs. C.

29. This is not true—I did not declare him *worthy* of *any respect*—but that I had no wish to injure him in their esteem or deprive him of their respect—as to the residue, I mentioned him as a young man of some abilities—one to whom I *had* rendered services---and whom I should with pleasure see come forward in life happily and respectably, if he would not interfere with the happiness of myself or my family.

30. The same young lady mentioned in note 26, page 79.

31. One of my *family servants*.

32. The lady I have introduced under the fictitious name of Mrs. C.

33. My brother-in-law, James Cresap.

In order that the latter part of what he wrote on the outside of the letter may be better understood, it is necessary to observe that I received a letter from my brother-in-law, late in October, informing me that I might expect him in Baltimore in a few days;—about the same time I received by the stage a trunk belonging to him, which had been for some time at George-Town,—and by the mail a letter from Wm. H. Dorsey, Esq. enclosing me the key.—My daughters had not seen their uncle for almost two years. The expectation of a visit from him was therefore a source of pleasure.

When in Annapolis, on the third of November, my cousin, Joseph Cresap, one of the representatives from Allegany county, enquired of me whether my brother-in-law had arrived at Baltimore, and informed me that he intended to leave home a few days after he himself left Alleghany. On my return I mentioned this circumstance to my children, and we were in the daily expectation of his arrival. This Keene knew, and though, as I had it from undoubted authority, he pretended to be happy that Mr. Cresap was coming to town, declaring that he was very well acquainted with Mr. Cresap, that he could satisfy him that he had acted a very honourable part, and was sure to find in him a friend to his union with his niece; yet all this was only another instance of his duplicity and art, for by his own letter he proves that he dreaded his arrival and had no hopes of his approbation; but the reverse. At the same time he was so totally incorrect in his suspicions, that there was any plan formed or forming between myself and Mr. Cresap for the removal of my child; that the visit he promised us was in no respect proposed or accelerated by me—on the contrary, he was in absolute ignorance of Keene's pretentions to his niece. nor had I written one line to him on the subject, from the day that Keene first disclosed his passion to me, at Annapolis, until the date of Mr. Keene's letter. Nay, so delicately secret had I been upon this subject—so little did I wish to give publicity to my private concerns—or to trouble therewith even my nearest and dearest connexions, that from the time I returned from Boston until I sent my daughter to New-York, as hereafter will be related, I had not on any occasion mentioned Mr. Keene's name in any of my communications with Mr. Scott and his lady—nor hinted in the most distant manner at the attachment he professed for my daughter.

The reader may easily believe that, after what had passed between myself and Mrs. C. in my own house, and after having waited upon her husband and herself and explicitly informing them that I had insuperable objections to the union of Mr. Keene with my daughter, and that if the event ever took place I would forever renounce her, I could not but reflect with astonishment at her obstinate pertinacity evinced by persisting in such interference,—and that she should almost immediately, after that explanation, be his instrument to convey a letter to my child.

But I determined to make one more essay to bring her to a sense of the impropriety of her conduct. I therefore wrote, and sent to her the following letter.

" *Madam*,

" Unless Mr. Keene has taken an unwarrantable liberty with your name, in a letter which I now have before me, you have, since I explained myself to Mr. *** and yourself, been prevailed upon by him to convey a letter to my child.

It would *in me* be *cruelty* in the *extreme* to an *amiable lady*, *young* as *you* are, and probably not *much accustomed to reflect*, was I not to suggest to you the *impropriety* of *thus* interfering, in so *important* a matter with the *domestic* concerns of a family, of which, when you arrived here, you had no knowledge, except what arose from the *interchange* of *politeness* and *civilities* between travellers ; and in favour of a man of whom you had *no knowledge*. When also you was explicitly informed by a *Father*, who had *well known him* for several years, that he had *insuperable objections* ever to receive him as the husband of his child ; a child, who, with *pain* he is obliged to say, would, in all probability, never have been exposed to his arts, nor even been acquainted with him, but for the humanity and benevolence of her father.

A sense of propriety,—personal regard for you,—and motives of the purest delicacy towards you, have caused me to address this letter to *yourself*.

Satisfied that you have not been influenced in your conduct by a wish to disturb the felicity and harmony of a family, which certainly *never injured you*,—nor by a desire to blast the fairest prospects of happiness,—and to consign to misery and poverty an amiable child, who deserves to be happy,—I

feel towards you neither enmity nor resentment. On the contrary, not doubting but that a moment's reflection will convince you of your error, and prevent its continuance, I shall with pleasure, while you remain here, and at any other time we may meet, treat you with every attention in my power.

Receive, Madam, my assurances that wherever you may be, or in whatever situation in life, you will bear with you my sincerest wishes for your happiness.

I am, Madam,
With real regard,
Your obedient servant,
LUTHER MARTIN.

Mrs. ***.
November 9th, 1802.

On the same day, on which I wrote this letter, I was under the necessity of leaving Baltimore to attend the court of appeals, which was, as I before mentioned, to meet next morning at Annapolis.

I have observed already that Mrs. C. invited my daughter to spend that day with her and promised to send her carriage for her.—Before I left home I informed my Eleonora that I could not consent to her acceptance of Mrs. C's invitation, and that she had better send an apology to her, but that at all events, should the carriage come for her, it was *my express commands* she should not go—and as my reason for this command, I told her that as she was unable to walk, she must be lifted out of the carriage and carried through the passage up stairs to Mrs. C's room, and, in the same manner be brought down again,—that it was known Mr. Keene boarded in the same house—that in all probability he would himself be assistant in thus carrying her from and to the carriage,—that his attachment to her was generally known in this city,—that the house was commonly crowded with travellers, that she would become an object of general observation—that her visit would be expressly considered to be on account of Keene,—and that in all probability it might cause her name to be most disrespectfully mentioned, and that very extensively; and that my regard for her compelled me to prevent the occasion.—I also, as I was leaving town, called at the door of the same gentleman whom I have men-

tioned to dine at my table with Mr. and Mrs. C. and who was at that time in habits of intimacy with them, related the circumstance,—informed him I had forbid my daughter to visit Mrs. C. until she was able to walk, and requested him to see her and prevent the carriage being sent for my daughter, nay, if it was *necessary*, to make use of my name, and explain the matter to her husband, so as to obtain his interference. The carriage did not go for my daughter, nor did she visit Mrs. C. according to the invitation.

I continued at Annapolis until the afternoon of the 17th, and arrived at Baltimore on the next morning, which was Wednesday, to breakfast—the criminal court commenced there on the Monday preceding, and I was in constant attendance on that court until the 5th of December following.

It would be naturally supposed, that, if Mrs. C. had possessed an atom of sensibility or generosity in her whole composition, from the moment she had read the gentle and delicate reproof she had received from me, she would have forever refused to lend her aid for the destruction of *my happiness*, and to *draw down ruin and misery* on my *unhappy child!* But alas, she acted the very reverse, and was a constant and busy agent even to the time I sent my daughter to New-York.—She visited my Eleonora frequently in my absence—invited her to her lodgings—took her out with her in her carriage, left no art unessayed to ensnare my child, was the promoter of interviews between them—the bearer of letters and messages—the warm advocate in favour of her marriage to Keene, and the encourager of disregard to her father, and disobedience to his will.—She even did not affect to keep up appearances.—Her attentions were to my Eleonora exclusively.—Her visits, her invitations—the airings in her carriage, were confined to Eleonora. Maria had no share in them—nay, I have been informed, and have no doubt of the truth, that in a large company of respectable characters, where she spent an evening in this city, she carried her *indiscretion* to such an *extreme*, as herself to introduce the subject of my letter, observing that Mr. Martin had thought proper to charge her with conveying a letter from Mr. Keene to his daughter,—and boasted that it was not only *one* letter, but she had been the means of her receiving hundreds—or words to that amount—and to some others to mention with much self-approbation the ingenious

devices by which she was accustomed, if she found Maria or any other company with Eleonora, when she visited her, to get her into another room in order to deliver her Keene's letters or messages.

It is said that it is *natural* for those who are *conscious* that they are in the *habits* of *injuring another*, and *known by him to be so*, to *hate* him also—I believe it to be true.—And Mrs. C. if I am to judge from general information, appears to have bestowed a *large portion* of *that passion* upon myself and my daughter Maria, both of whom, most certainly, treated her with infinitely more politeness and attention than her conduct deserved from us, and neither of whom would have been probably seen by her at this place, but from that disposition which my Creator stamped upon my heart when he formed me,—to contribute to the happiness of my fellow-creatures; and which has caused me to consider it in some degree a *duty*, as far as my situation would enable me, to shew attentions and contribute to the satisfaction of strangers, who were supposed worthy and respectable, when resident where I live, and particular so, if *even accident* has given me any previous acquaintance with them.

She most certainly, if public report deserves to be in the smallest degree relied on, did most liberally indulge herself in invective against my Maria and myself to those who shewed any disposition to listen to her, and I have reason to believe there were some *few* "*two-legged animals without feathers*" (34) who *did listen* to her *without disgust.* (35)

There is a gentleman in this city with whom I have been in the habits of intimacy for at least seventeen years past, whom I much esteem—and to whom Mr. Keene knew that I had shewn strong proofs of friendship.—Mr. K. appears to have formed an idea that this gentlman might have had some influence over me, and to have hoped he might have obtained in him a kind of mediator in his favour—at least the fact is, that even before the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. C. he had introduced himself into his family, and was so constant a visitor, and so often at his table as to induce an acquaintance *archly* to enquire whether Mr. Keene was a boarder in the family, and for what length of time he had engaged his board. To this gentleman he communica-

34. Plato's definition of man, "Animal bipes et implumis."

35. Unfortunately such is the world, that what would *damn the reputation* of a woman who is obliged to travel *on foot*, will sometimes be thought *quite innocent*, if not *praise-worthy* in her who *rides in her chariot.*

"The *Saint* in *crape* is *twice* a *Saint* in *lawn.*"

ted freely with respect to the situation in which he stood with me and my family,—endeavoured to interest his feelings—mentioned occurrences which had happened, and letters that had passed.

Finding this to be the case, I also communicated with this gentleman with frankness, in order that Keene might through him be further assured of my unalterable opposition to his views.—I shewed him some part of the letters, which had passed between us—this obliged me to *explain* certain *allusions* in those letters. I spoke of his conduct, with regard to mine own and one other family, in terms of *strong detestation*, but not more so than the reader will perceive I had in my letters used to himself.

To this gentleman I without hesitation declared that, should I find it necessary to save my daughter from that misery, in which he was endeavouring to involve her, I would remove her even to the most distant part of the globe. And that so determined was I that, if he did prevail on her to disobey my commands, he should receive no benefit thereby; I had even guarded against accident by making my will, in quadruplicates, sealed and lodged in the custody of most respectable characters, and had thereby secured that he should not receive a farthing from my estate in case of his marriage with my daughter.—And all this I did for the very purpose that Mr. Keene should know it. Between this gentlaman and Mr. Keene an intimacy remained for some time after Mr. and Mrs. C. came to this city, and with that gentleman and his lady also he and his family were sometime intimate. The reason of my mentioning these occurrences will be evident in the process of this publication.

LUTHER MARTIN.

N. B. The printers of this work have informed me that Mr. Keene applied to them for leave to revise the proofs of his letters —This I refused—I have not *trusted* the *originals at the press*, but only furnished *copies*. Should he suggest there are *inaccuracies* in the publication, or *misrepresentations*—As to the *first*, I will instantly examine and correct any error—And as to the *last*, any gentleman of respectability by him appointed, and who will pledge his honour to keep secret the *names* which *I have concealed*, may compare the originals with the pamphlets.

In consequence of information, given by Mr. Keene; through a friend, upon examination I find the expressions "*insecure security*" which I have published as being in Keene's letter of the 30th September, and have referred to in one of the notes to this number, are in the original "insecure *serenity*." As far as I can judge, I think the expressions in the pamphlet are infinitely more proper and energetic than the original—however, as it is his wish, I with great cheerfulness correct the error. L. M.

MODERN GRATITUDE.

"————————Facilis descensus averni,——
Sed revocare gradum, superasque evadere ad auras,
Hic labor, hoc opus est——"

Of vice—how wide, how smooth the downhill road—
How steep the ascent to Virtue's bright abode!

(No. IV.)

THE reader will here indulge me with selecting from Mr. Keene's letters in No. I two extracts.

"But when that source is *Mr. Martin*, when from him I receive the expressions of friendly frankness I feel all the thankfulness of which my nature is capable. And so highly should I prize even the *severest admonitions* from *that source* that I would do any thing short of *voluntary wrong to obtain them.*" (1)

"If I know myself aright *even under circumstances of grievance*, I should *even then*, I say, hold myself *incapable of resentment*, towards him, however he should be mistaken towards me, and *however he might act* under such mistake, *who is entitled to*, and who possesses *my warmest gratitude and reverence*,——and who I must subjoin *shall* in *every*

1. No. I, page 17.

possible vicissitude find it my pride to *square my conduct* with the sentiments herein expressed !" (2)

Those who have read my former numbes must admit that I had indulged the young gentleman with not a few of those " severe admonitions" which he professed " so highly to prize," but they must also admit that he had not stopped " short of voluntary wrong" to obtain them.

Not one single solitary grievance had he ever sustained from me.—I had only endeavoured by every argument I could use, and by every remonstrance against the impropriety and incorrectness of his conduct to prevail upon him to act like a man of honour,—to respect the solemn promises he had made to me,—to leave un impaired that domestic felicity, in the possession of which he found me, when the hand of benevolence received him into my family,—in fine not to give a deadly wound to the heart of him, whom he acknowledged to be " entitled" to his " warmest gratitude and reverence"—while at the same time would he but have listened to my advice—would he but have acted in conformity thereto I was willing and ready to have still continued to render him any services in my power to have given him, to any reasonable extent, the benefit of my interest and of my purse.

After these observations I hope the reader will be prepared for the following letter, with which I was honoured by him on the 28th of November last.

BALTIMORE, NOV. 28, 1801.

SIR,

HAVING reason to consider you as having made certain mistatements against me that are highly unwarrantable, I deem it proper to express to you my disapprobation thereof; and to inform you, that however efficient you may deem your enmity, in order to accomplish any favourite purpose, yet I shall *without the least hesitation*, notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the task, counteract your *injurious attempts* by the most effectual means that, truth and justice (3) will enable me to employ.

2. No. I, page eleven.
3. He should have said, misrepresentation and falshood.

I have ever laid it down as a maxim, by which, to square my conduct, to oppose the *illiberal efforts* of any man, however dignified his rank, or however great his influence might be. I am very well aware, that in one or two instances in my life, I may have been looked upon as an intemperate and, perhaps, a presumptious young man. No fear of such imputation, however, shall ever lead me to acquiesce in outrage.

As I never shall condescend to conduct a correspondence with any person, who *regardless of common decency and common civility*, which no enmity however inveterate will justify the violation of, *indulges only in scurrility and invective;* I shall wave all altercation respecting my pretentions to your daughter, notwithstanding your having told me in Annapolis in June last, that "you were perfectly willing that I should take an equal chance with any other young man for the affections of your daughter, (4) thereby sanctioning those pretentions; although since in one of your *philippicks*, you affect much surprize at my having even a momentary confidence in your assurance thus solemnly given, wherein in speaking of your agreeing to my marriage with your daughter, you say—" what could have induced you for a moment to have suspected me capable of such folly or madness I cannot conceive." I shall also forbear to derive any justification of my conduct against your charge of being incapacitated by a previous attachment to Miss B**** to love your youthful daughter, from the history of your enthusiastic love of Miss ———, and after courtship of the "*infantine*" Miss Cresap. These considerations, I say, I shall wave and remark only upon three collateral points that you have thought proper to found reproaches upon against me.

In the first place it seems you have complained, that "*like another fiend from hell I abused the privilege of your house while I was a member thereof, by introducing therein disreputable characters among which were players.*"

This charge, if true, would certainly entitle me to the censure of every person of our acquaintance whose indignation you threaten me with, and which you seem so anxious to bring upon me. But, Sir, it is totally groundless, and in such light shall be exhibited co-extensively with the misrepresentation. I never in my life introduced or invited a player into

4. The first time he ever breathed to *me* the infamous falshood.

your family, although often solicited so to do by a particular section thereof, or any other person, but young gentlemen of the fairest and most reputable characters. Their names I can easily recount, to wit :—Chase, Rogers, Price, Dr. Blake, Thomas, son of Dr. Thomas of Fred. Cheston, a relation of Mrs. col. Howard, a visitant in the colonel's family, who dined with me once when you were at home ; and Mr. M'Henry, late secretary to our minister at the Hague.

This I believe to be a correct list of every visitant that I ever took or invited into your family. If there be others unmentioned they are forgotten ; but I can confidently assert, that such, if such there be, are equally reputable with those mentioned ; whose respectability you will not attempt to call in question. Players 'tis true I have seen in your family ; but so far from *introducing them there*, I, on the other hand, was there introduced to them, to Rinagle by yourself, and to **** by the same section of your family that so often solicited me to encourage his visits ; but what in no one instance did I ever attempt. To **** I never gave the slightest encouragement to visit your family. From the most disinterested motives, I suggested to Miss Martin upon discovering his pointed attentions to her at the theatre—attentions that produced unpleasant remarks,—that **** was not an associate in the same circle of society with herself and although still he might be a clever young man, yet without a proper knowledge of his character, where there existed at least certain doubtful circumstances in relation thereto, his particular attentions had better be discontinued. This suggestion which was made as innocently as monition was ever given, brought upon me the resentment of Miss Martin, as well your *old friend* can attest, and exposed me to the chance of a challenge from *****, by her informing a person intimate with him that I had *abused* him. Upon finding myself put in a hazard of disagreeable quarrels by giving advice, I determined to interfere no more. From that time I expressed no sentiment *adverse* to ****'s visiting in your family—but I never gave the least encouragement to his visits.

The second subject of your reproach that I shall notice is, that I *evinced myself a villain in respect of Mr. B's family, and that I have been and am considered by them as such.*

Here, Sir, misrepresentation is again employed.—There

once subsisted an attachment between Miss B. and myself; which I never denied to her father, nor to any other person, who had a right to demand any confession of me ; and which I immediately apprized Mr. James Winchester of, and acted under his controul in relation thereto. Mr. Charles Carroll, jun. likewise can attest the correctness of my views in relation to that subject. Mr. B. himself I have ample authority for saying, and which will never be contested, only lamented the *imprudence* of the attachment ; but never charged me with dishonour, but spoke to some of his most confident friends in a respectful manner of the affair. After my departure from his family, Mr. Winchester, Mr. B's bosom friend, who after conferring with him respecting said attachment, and all its circumstances, would certainly have been far from giving me his friendly attention and support, if dishonour had ever marked my conduct :—Yet Mr. W. I say, after a perfect knowledge of the affair and derived too from Mr. B. himself, treated me with *distinguished respect and rendered me the most friendly and substantial services.*— And here, Sir, let me remark by the by; that although I wish ever to cherish a grateful remembrance of your friendship towards me *however I may despise your mal-practices, and set your indignities at naught*, yet without depreciating that friendship, my *resources were such as to enable me for some time to doubt whether I would accept* your *voluntary offer* of a place in your family and office.—I remark this only on account of your representation that it had been owing *altogether to your own generosity and humanity* that I have pretentions to respectability in society.

Subsequent to the foregoing affair a person intimate in Mr. T's family, whose name has since been given up, assured me that Mrs. T. was in the habit of illnaturedly and illiberally remarking upon me, that I was a *drunkard and debauchee*, &c.

Conscious that such report was unjust in the extreme and altogether unprovoked, and used only as a *mean artifice* to influence her sister's affections, I felt my resentment much excited, and in consequence thereof, addressed a very harsh and severe letter to Mrs. T.

Some time ago, however, Mrs. T. and myself came to an explanation upon this subject. We spent one evening or two together then ; and in that time conferred together and

discussed our former misunderstanding with temperance and respect. My information of her abuse of me she assured me was highly incorrect—that she never had spoken disrespectfully of me, or considered that my conduct authorized me to be so spoken of. She admitted however that my letter to her was a very natural consequence of such information. She related certain circumstances, which altogether convinced us both that much villainy had been practised, to incense her father and herself on the one part and myself against each other. We then exchanged promises of future respect and friendship ; and she moreover assured me that if I thought proper to renew my intercourse with her father's family, I should be welcomely received there.

And now, Sir, after you were in a great measure, and might easily have been entirely so, apprized of the particulars, and correctness of this satisfactory explanation and accommodotion, how *ungenerous and how unmanly was it in you to shut your eyes thereon ;* and by officiously blending Mr. B's family affairs with your own, *volunteer the grossest and vilest abuse against me ;* not only on account of the above letter to Mrs. T. when the most satisfactory termination of that affair had taken place between, all who had a right to be concerned, but also on account of the old attachment between Miss B. and me ; which her father only deemed unfortunate or imprudent at most ; and on account of which, he never refused to treat me with politeness and respect. (5) How, Sir, I say, *consistently with that candour and liberality which you have so often professed ; or consistently indeed with common justice, common decency or common delicacy, could* you endeavour, as you have so strenuously attempted, to give the stab of death to my character, and prostrate me

5. I have no wish to go into any investigation of his conduct towards Mr. B. or any part of his family, nor of the sentiments they entertain for him.

It is sufficient for me that Keene himself, in his letter to me of the 22d of February, 1801, with the copy of the letter from him to Mr. B. which accompanied it, had put me in possession of at leat his *own statement of that business*—and had *appealed* to me for *censure* or *approbation.*

He thereby gave *me* an *undoubted right* to *censure* that conduct if I thought it censurable—to reproach him with it, if his future conduct was similar—And particularly if that future conduct was destructive to my own happiness, to *make it the subject of reproach,* because my having, notwithstanding that impropriety, continued my benevolence to him enhanced the ingratitude of such future conduct !

in the very dust of society, by *reviving and distorting old subjects, and accompanying them with the most illiberal and opprobious suggestions when the principals interested in those subjects had long since dismissed them, and evinced by their declarations and their conduct, that they were satisfied and contented?* Let your own conscience answer. (6) But if you are *regardless* of the *gross injustice that you have laboured to render me*, on the occasion, by the *incorrectness and illiberality of your statements you ought to have paid some regard to the indecency and indelicacy you were committing towards Mr. B's family.* When you have been *blazoning to the world that I have acted like a villain and scoundrel towards Mr. B. and Mrs. T.* was it not naturally to be expected, that you must necessarily have the sanction of their authority for the utterence of your reproaches? Certainly it was.—But, Sir, I have taken the pains to make known your *procedure* (7) to those persons and received their assurances, as I was certain of beforehand, that for such *procedure* you were altogether unauthorised by them; or assurances equivalent thereto. (8) But, Sir, even if Mr. B. and Mrs. T. were to disgrace themselves by habits of reproachful declamation, what justification would you have, for enlisting yourself a *volunteer partizan in so unworthy a cause*, and employing your *utmost zeal in such ungentlemanly and ignoble operations?* But how much more *disgraceful does this business of abuse appear, when it is evinced, that you have most ungenerously and uncandidly, usurped authority, to subserve the illiberal purpose of covering me with odium, by ushering forth under cover of certain names, reproaches that are utterly disavowed by those whose names you have smuggled into your service!*

Under this head it seems essential to you to know what certain individuals think, before you can think for yourself. I can advertise you, that although a *misunderstanding* of a *private and family nature, and not at all calculated to interest other people or to require partizans, formerly subsisted between Dr. Harris' family and myself; so as to cause a suspension of my intercourse therewith; yet Dr. Harris has*

6. My conscience has answered the question in the preceding note.

7. Quite a-la-Jefferson—But unfortunately this has not, I fear the merit of originality.—It was written after his answer to the address of the New-Haven merchants.

8. A charming subterfuge—" assurances" or assurances " *equivalent?*"

made me many visits and gave me many cordial invitations to renew that intercourse. You have represented me as labouring under the weight of Dr. H's displeasure, else *I should not have mentioned the subject. Yes, Sir, in order to ensure the better success to your own enmity, you joined in a forced and unnatural union therewith, that of my mother's brother! But here again you are abandoned by your forced auxiliaries.* But as *you press them into your service, such abandonment* is but *just retaliation.* The respect of any body, I should ever wish to have, unless of that *worthless herd of sycophants* and *minions* (9) whose censure is always praise, if attainable upon reasonable terms: but *when those terms become unreasonable I will set at defiance the disrespect of any man* (10) The friendly sentiments of Dr. H. particularly from the relationship between us, I could ever most readily have gone to what I conceived to be reasonable lengths to have preserved, but on account of the loss of his friendly sentiments or those of any other person, I should be far indeed from considering my claims to respectability weakened: as on the other hand I never did nor ever shall, consider additional merit to attach to me, on account of the smiles of any person whatever.

Your matter of reproach in the third place is, it seems, that *I am void of respectability and am considered as a worthless wretch known only to be despised.*

You indeed, it seems, have been much more expressive and copious in this charge but I shall *not prostitute my pen further in reciting such ribaldry and virulence.*

Were this *malicious and illiberal charge* made under such circumstances as *rendered refutation in the least necessary and required more than contempt;* such refutation should easily be given; but as it can be looked upon by *every person whose opinion is worth regarding*, as an *impotent and harmless calumny only: contempt* musts be its exclusive reward.

Thus, Sir, does it appear from *your practice*, though *directly contrary* to your *loudest precepts*, that you sought regardless of the sacrifice you should make; *to sanctify the most*

9. Of which he is a most conspicuous member!

10. The public have already seen on what "terms" he might have regained my "respect" and preserved my services—and I willingly consent to submit to the public whether those terms were "unreasonable."

ignoble and unworthy means by some favourite end. If you have supposed that *virulent invective or sounding menaces* though *trumpeted forth in every street and alley can in the least controul my views*, by exciting the *slightest impression* of *fear* or *apprehension* within me—I *beg you to correct the egregious error.* No, Sir, my bosom *never did* nor *ever shall* experience any *other feeling* than *pity or indignation for the threats or outrage of man. Pusilanimous* indeed must that creature be, and worthy only of a tyrant's rule, who would not sooner yield to extirpation itself, than to threats or outrage to succumb. (11)

Whatever may be the *vulnerable points in your character, I never shall be the person to attack them.* The *effusions of your resentment*, which I affect not to disguise my regret of, *I shall ever counteract;* though in so doing I shall ever endeavour to discriminate between *aggression* and *defence*—the latter only being what I shall conceive my only task. The virtues of Mr. Martin I have long been accustomed to respect—nay to revere. And if it be *your lot to exhibit to your family and your country*, a brilliant picture of your life *untarnished by a single blot*; be assured that *I shall never repine thereat, nor wish to cloud its lustre:* And if *otherwise it should appear;* if the *ravages of the passions in any form* have *assailed the splendid scene* and *mingled with its brightest tints, darksome and discolouring hues*, those *hues will never constitute a theme for me to draw forth reproach or taunt against you.* (12) Although it is my *unalterable intention*, however *unpleasant may be the task*, and whatever may be the *hazard, to correct your injurious mistatements yet* I had much rather, I very freely confess, save both you and myself, the pain and *degradation of dabbling in so filthy a warfare*—if my assurance then will conduce to that end; be so assured, that however *great my obligations* may be to you;

11. This part of the letter I particularly recommend to our high charged Democrats, if there are any such in congress, who are in the habits of declaiming against the arbitrary and tyrannical measures of former administrations:—From it I think they might cull flowers enough to *embellish* a speech of at least an hour's length; unless indeed they should find themselves forestalled by some popular demagogue at a Braddox' field meeting, attended with a Genevean secretary.

12. Precious Hypocrite! "Who with Ifs and Buts would damn fair fame."

yet you must be *greatly misled indeed if you suppose that any sense of favour or obligation whatever can induce me in the least to crouch to you, or to relinquish any pretensions to respectability, independence and self-dignity.* (13) And *equally mistaken are you too*, if you conceive that *your abuse or your threats however tremendous* they may be deemed either by *yourself* or your *advisers*, *can produce the slightest degree of concession; or excite any other possible sensation*, than *commiseration and contemptuous disgust.*

Know then, Sir, that by the *further agency* which you have employed, my *intimidation will never in the least be experienced;* and that *such agency, shall forever receive my warmest counteraction.*

As *your letters* must necessarily give trouble and irksomness to *yourself to write*, as well as *to me to read them;* and as *no benefit will arise therefrom*, to counterbalance those disadvantages: *I think our correspondence had better cease.*

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your humble servant,
R. R. KEENE.

Having now favoured you with this most extraordinary effort of misrepresentation and effrontery,—permit me, gentle reader, after assuring you, which I now do, in the most solemn manner, that in my three first numbers I have published every letter or note, which had ever passed between him and myself on the subject of his attachment to my Eleonora, to request you, for a moment, to pause and recall to your mind the contents of those letters,—and the tenor of my whole conduct towards him,—after which you have perfect leave to judge of the merit or demerit of this his most extraordinary production.

The person to whom this letter is addressed, is therein represented by him with having made "mistatements highly unwarrantable" and exerting "enmity" against him to "ac-

13. I never wished that a sense of favours even actually conferred should induce him to *crouch* to *me*—I have found a sense of favours actually received could not even secure me from his vindictive malignity;—but I have long known him, from a hope that favours might be conferred, and with a view to their continuance, to *crawl* and *crouch* like a *Spaniel!*

complish a favourite purpose :"—As having made " injurious attempts," and " illiberal efforts" to his prejudice ;—as " regardless of common decency and common civility—indulging only in scurrility and invective."—as having " sanctioned his pretentions to a daughter," and yet " affecting much surprize that he should have even a momentary confidence in an assurance solemnly given"—and as having employed " misrepresentation." As a person, who with respect to him, had been guilty of " mal-practices" and treated him with " indignities" which ought to be " despised ;"—with having acted " ungenerous and unmanly,—volunteering against him the greatest and vilest abuse ;"—acting " inconsistently with the liberality and candour professed,"—and " inconsistently with common justice, common decency and common delicacy ;"—using " the most illiberal and opprobrious suggestions"—dealing in " statements incorrect and illiberal," yet " regardless of the gross injustice,"—"enlisting as a volunteer partizan in an unworthy cause,"—and " employing the utmost zeal in ungentlemanly and ignoble operations,"—as having most ungenerously and uncandidly usurped authority to subserve the illiberal purpose of covering him with odium,"—as a person, who had " joined" his own name " in a forced and unnatural union with the name of his mother's brother, to ensure better success to the exertions of enmity" against him—and had introduced " ribaldry and virulence," to " recite" which would be a " prostitution of his pen"—as having made charges so " malicious and illiberal" as to " render refutation utterly unnecessary and to require nothing more than contempt,"—" such as could be only looked upon by every person, whose opinion is worthy regarding, as an impotent and harmless calumny ;" a person—who, " regardless of the sacrifice" which would be made, " sought to sanctify the most ignoble and unworthy means by some favourite end,—trumpeting forth, in every street and alley, virulent invective and sounding menaces to impress him with fear or apprehension ; but only exciting in him the feelings of pity and indignation ;" a person having in his " own character vulnerable points," which were he inclined he might easily " attack"—and exhibiting " a picture of life tarnished with blots,—assailed by the ravages of passion, and having its brightest tints mingled with darksome and discolouring

hues"--And finally, as a person, who was engaged against him in " so filthy a warfare" that he wished to avoid the " pain and degradation of dabbling therein"—and to whom so far from " yielding the slightest concession he could only feel the sensations of commiseration and contemptuous disgust"! ! !

And to whom was this letter addressed ? of whom has he given this odious character ?

The,—man who about thirty-two months before, finding him in a " situation gloomy in the extreme, in a strange place without money, and without friends, and without the opportunity of making either :—when he was scarce known to him,—when he could have been but little, if at all acquainted with any favourable pretensions that he might have conceived attached to him,—in that situation and under these circumstances took him into his office and family." (14) The man,—" for whose goodness, but 9 months before, he had declared even his veneration excited from, through an *intimate* acquaintance with him, coming to understand the extensive scale of liberality & philanthropy on which he acted, and from finding himself only a solitary link in the lengthened chain of beings, whom his benefactions were ever employed in cherishing." (15) The man,—in whom he then declared, " was to be found one person of that limited class, who independently on the prejudices of the world, and the requisitions of self-interest, could practice the golden rule of doing as he would be done by." (16) The man,—" whose smiles he then considered as the smiles of a tutelary genius,—and whose displeasure he contemplated as one of the first earthly objects of his deprecation." (17)—The man—" towards whom even under circumstances of grievance, however mistaken he might be, and however he might act under such mistake" he then declared " he should be incapable of resentment." (18)—The man,—" whose severest admonitions he then so highly prized that rather than not to obtain them he would do any thing short of voluntary wrong." (19) The man,--" the petty

14. No. 1, page 5.
15. No. 1, page 6.
16. No. 1, page 6.
17. No. 1, page 6.
18. No. 1, page 11.
19. No. 1, page 17.

foibles of whose nature" were, not quite two months before, in his opinion, "but mere *specs* upon the disk of a *sun*"—and who then was by him declared to have been accustomed to "follow the charitable examples of his God, as far as finite can imitate infinite." (20) In fine, the man,—"on whose bounty he had lived between two and three years.—In the enlivening rays of whose benevolence the frozen adder had basked, until, warmed and thawed into life and activity, he became able to hiss and dart his sting! !

Whence then this *sudden change?* Whence comes it that the man, who was but two months before *almost a deity* is on the 28th of November *almost a devil?* Has he *one single foible* of human nature *different* from what he had before? Is there *one single spec* of a *different* nature on the *disk of his sun?* Even malignity, *however black*, must answer in the negative—Has he become less the image of that Deity, to whom two months before he was as nearly resemblant as finite could be to infinite? No! His charitable exertions are *greater* than at that time—his benevolence *more* extended! What then are his crimes?—*Great* and *many*.

He could not consent that a man, whom he could not esteem, should insidiously steal into the good opinion of an infant child,—and step between her and every sentiment of filial affection and duty,—every sentiment of nature,—not only to render her, but all to whom she was dear, miserable—He could not consent to see him violating every solemn engagement, and yet treat him with attention and politeness. He could not consent to *reward* deliberate falshood, baseness and injury with the hand of his daughter, or with a continuation of services.—He could not endure the thought of clasping to his bosom a poisonous, a death-dealing scorpion! !—*These* and *these only* were his crimes.

On the same evening, on which I was honoured with the effusions of his vindictive and malignant passions, he intended to have honoured my Eleonora with the effusions of those of a different nature. On that evening he sent the following letter to be delivered to her—

20. No. 2, pages 46 & 47.

21. No. 2. pages 47 & 48.

Saturday Night.

" *My dearest, loveliest Ellen,*

Why will cruel fate (22) thus ordain our seperation! I love you, yes I love you, my Ellen, with all the purity and ardency of which human nature is capable. (23) And who can with justice arraign my love, and say with truth, vexation and disappointment are thy just reward. (24) None can with truth or justice such cruel sentence pass. I am not vain or presumptuous,—(25) Yet the sincerity of my beloved girl authorises me to say,—or rather to *believe* that she too would in her turn take happiness in the enjoyment of her K's society—Yes, my loveliest Eleonora would from the generosity of her disposition, from her wish to make others happy if no other cause existed, from that and that alone take pleasure in the company of her K—seeing that such association would in the highest degree confer pleasure upon him. (26)

Do then, my dearest Ellen for my sake endeavour to let *me see you as often* as you possibly can. (27) Your generosi-

22. In his last letter to her which I have published, it was " mysterious Heaven!"—Here it is " Cruel fate."—The one was as well suited for his purpose as the other.—Both vastly pathetic and adapted to make an impression on the heart of a silly child!

23. He should have said " of which a fortune-hunter is capable."

24. I have taken the liberty to " arraign" what he calls his " love,"—and I believe he finds by this time that " vexation and disappointment are its reward"—The justice of which I chearfully submit to the world.

25. Oh, certainly not!—quite the reverse,—the Pink of modesty and diffidence.

26. To see my children growing up with *generous and benevolent* " dispositions" has been to me a source of pleasure—*those*, if nothing else, they will inherit from their parents.—But that cannot be a reason why I should not detest the man, who would avail, or who has availed himself of that " generosity of disposition" to destroy the happiness of a child before she was capable to correctly discriminate in its exercise.

27. In his former letters he confined himself to solicitations that she would let him hear from her and write to him—But by this time he thought he had prepared her mind to proceed one step farther in her disregard for my injunctions.

ty, your goodnesss, my Ellen, has led me to hope, that the period is not far distant, when sacred union will make your K. the happiest of his sex, in the uninterrupted enjoyment of his Ellen. But still my Cherub, can you not in the mean time arrange it so, as to let me have as much of *your society*, your delicious society as possible—yes thy sweet voice I almost hear answer in the affirmative. We are wedded, my sweet Ellen in the sight of our God (28) and religiously do I trust that such union notwithstanding the prejudices of the world receives His perfect approbation. He knows we are sincere and mean nothing but what is virtuous and honourable. (29)

Do then, my dear girl, let us not mar our happiness too much by too great self-denial—our sacrifice will never soften our opposers.—Let us then determine not to sacrifice our own happiness altogether, though even till *spring*, but as often as we can let us enjoy each other's company. I am now setting at ****'s (30) table—Mrs. *** (31) dined out with Mrs. ****, and **** (32) and myself dined alone. He has just gone for his lady and left me by myself. I shall go off in an instant and dare almost to cherish the hope of seeing you with **** and **** on my way down street. Be at Church to-morrow, and set where you did when I saw you last. (33)—Good night my dearest Eleonora—Yours forever, with sincerest affection.

â R. R. KEENE." (34)

28. Who or what is *his God*—whether Ashtaroth, Astarte or Molock, or any other in the Heathen catalogue, I know not.—I am very sure it is not the God of Christianity.

29. It is a principle of modern Philosophy that "the end sanctifies the means"—In this case the *means* and the *end* have been nearly equally honourable and virtuous.

30, 31 & 32. Here was introduced the real name for which I have substituted the fictitious name of Clifford.

33. I was not unapprized that he as well as my daughter had become great devotees, as far at least as constant attendance at Church; nor was I a stranger to the *good-natured arrangements* which were occasionally made to accommodate him with a particular seat, for the most pious of purposes.

This letter, as may readily be conceived, was not intended to come into my hands. It was entrusted to a weak, silly servant belonging to me, with the strictest charge that I must not see it, but that it must be given secretly to my Eleonora. The boy happened to be such a blundering fool that every thing of that kind urged convinced him the propriety of putting it into my hands, which he did.

I was satisfied both from his letter to me & his letter to my daughter, that he considered himself sure of her, and that he would go to any length whatever in opposition tomy will,—and that in consequence of the triumphant sensations of the moment, and the desire of preserving among his acquaintance some appearance of respectability, he had written that letter,—not with the least view to convince my mind or influence my judgment, which could not be deceived by his falshood and misrepresentation, but to shew the copy of it among his acquaintance, who knew not particulars, and who must naturally suppose that, if I had received from him a letter, of which that was a true copy, and neglected to detect its incorrectness and falshood, there must be truth and justice in what he had there alledged. Under this impression, I wrote and sent to Yundt and Brown a short piece, which was published by them on, I believe, the first or second of December 1801—and which is as follows——

To the Citizens of Baltimore,

BY a letter which I received from Richard R. Keene, Esq. on Saturday last, among many other very extraordinary things with which he is chargeable, he has, I find, thought proper to assume the character of a person, who has been injured *by me*, and has assured me, that he is determined the remedy, on his part, shall be circulated extensively with the evil. As I find the letter, though addressed to myself, with whom *detection was certain*, is filled with the *grossest misrepresentations*, I can easily conceive the *nature*

34. I at first had thought of publishing extracts only from this letter.—But I reflected that it might be supposed, I had selected the chaff only and left the wheat out of view :—Besides, some parts of the letter may be considered, in grandeur, & sublimity, and pathos, unequalled by any composition, except that most grand, sublime and pathetic of all grand, sublime and pathetic things whatsoever, the tragedy of Tom Thumb the great; and I thought it would not only be unjust but cruel to have omitted those parts.

of the remedy he means to *circulate*. I have not time, it is well known, even if I was otherwise qualified for the task, to follow him *from house to house* in order to *refute falshood* or *correct misrepresentation*.

I shall therefore as quick as it can be printed, distribute among my friends and acquaintances, in this city, a pamphlet, containing a variety of letters, which have passed between that young man and myself since I was honoured with his acquaintance, with just so much narrative as will connect and render intelligible our literary correspondence. The task is to me infinitely unpleasing ; and I certainly once thought it was impossible I could have been reduced to so unpleasant a necessity. What renders it more painful is, that I shall on certain occasions, be obliged to introduce the names of others, besides my own family, this will certainly be done with the utmost delicacy. I will not anticipate the public decision when in possession of the proper means of judging between us.

LUTHER MARTIN.

December 1.

I also wrote him in consequence of his letter to me the following note.

Baltimore, Dec. 1, 1801.

You will perceive, Sir, that, at least in *one* instance, I have attended to your sentiments—and as " letters to you give trouble and irksomness to me who write them," and I have no doubt " to you who read them"—and as you have unfortunately too completely convinced me " that they are not likely to be attended with any benefit to counterbalance these disadvantages" I have joined with you in the sentiment, that our " written correspondence may as well here cease." My answer to your extraordinary effusions of last Saturday you will receive in print—Farewell !

LUTHER MARTIN.

Richard R. Keene, Esq.

It was at that time my firm resolve to have complied with that notification, as speedily as my other avocations would permit ; and I accordingly engaged a printer to publish for me a certain number of pamphlets, the circulation of which

I intended to have confined, in a great measure, to the city of Baltimore and its vicinity; but, two of my friends, one of whom, particularly, was desirous that his letters to me should not become public waited on me during the district court of the United States, which at that time was in session, to dissuade me from my purpose—I appointed them a subsequent day to spend with me, when I should probably be least liable to interruption, and on that day I laid before them the whole correspondence which had antecedently passed between Keene and myself; and concluded by assuring them that, if Mr. Keene continued his residence at this place, I could not possibly avoid, however disagreeable it might be to myself or to others, publishing that correspondence, and exposing to my friends and acquaintance the manner, in which he had conducted himself towards me.

It was suggested to me, that it was possible Mr. Keene, rather than have his conduct thus publicly exposed, might prefer a removal from this state, and that I ought at least to suspend my publication for a short time in order to see what determination he should form;—to this I assented, and the more readily, because I had been informed he had expressed some inclination to leave Baltimore and go to Genessee, which had he done, I would not only have forgiven him all that had past, but would also, most cheerfully, have rendered him any services, which propriety could have permitted, for his future advancement in life.

On Monday, the 7th day of December, I left Baltimore accompanied by my daughters, and arrived that day at the City of Washington, where I attended the Supreme Court of the United States for the next fortnight;—while there a gentleman of high rank and station in society, with whom from my early youth I have been in habits of friendly intimacy, and than whom no man is more sincerely respected and esteemed by me, took an opportunity of mentioning to me, that he had seen my address in Yundt and Brown's paper,—and, while he regretted the occasion of it, expressed his wish, that the publication I had proposed might not take place, advising me instead thereof to send my child, as soon as I conveniently could, to her friends in New-York, to remain some time with them, whereby she would, it was to be hoped, be out of the way of any personal intercourse with him, and probably might, in a little time, be weaned from any attachment, which she had formed for him.

The high respect I have for that gentleman's sentiments together with the extreme reluctance I felt, determined my conduct—and I resolved at that time not to publish.

On Wednesday the 23d of December, we returened to this place, and on applying at the post-office for my letters, amongst others, I received the following address by Mr. Keene to myself:

December 23d, 1801.

Sir,

Having had put into my hands, by your consent, an address from you to Mr. T. Chase and others, [1] in which it appearing that you have been subject to a mistake as to the ground of complaint that I made in a late letter to you of your conduct towards me, I deem it but just both to yourself and me to explain to you wherein such mistake existed.

To address you at this time after what has passed, may possibly be deemed a departure from etiquette; but as candid explanation is my only object, considerations of ceremony, I shall wave.

An explanation of your mistake I gave in a late letter to Judge Winchester: and as a copy of that letter will be equally applicable to you, with an explanation addressed immediately to yourself, such copy I now enclose to you.—If after the perusal thereof and your receipt of reasonable proof of the correctness of my statement of the verbal communications it should appear but just that I should be exonerated from your public charge of *wanton misrepresentation*, it will rest with yourself to render that justice to me. Whatever other matter you have to object, yet, if a mistake can be evinced in respect of any particular points that may have been urged, such points I apprehend might be avowedly given up notwithstanding any perseverance in other objections. No *favour*, however, upon this subject do I solicit; if right shall in any respect appear to be due, I should certainly wish to have that right gratified. Upon such discrimination your own reflection upon the subject will enable you to determine;—and if any obligation should appear to attach to you to effect my exoneration of your imputation

1. Of this letter I kept no copy.

either partially, or wholly, a sense of justice and of condour, will, I hope, induce you to discharge the task.

R. R. KEENE.

LUTHER MARTIN, Esq.

P. S. * * * * * * * * * * * * * [2] As it could not, I should suppose, be your wish or desire that my letters should appear in print with *more* grammatical incorrectness or errors than my manuscripts really contain ; I request of you, under this impression, such accommodation only, upon this subject, as generous enmity however inveterate would never scruple to grant. I request of you the privilege of comparing the proof sheets of my letters with my own manuscripts in your hands, and of correcting those sheets faithfully and scrupuously by those manuscripts. My writing is at best, bad ; and any transcriber or reader, less intimate than myself, might unintentionally increase the original errors and defects. This privilege however you will understand me to be willing to avail myself of upon this indespensible condition, that Mr. John Purviance or Mr. T. Chase, or some other person in whom you can have entire confidence accompany me strictly in the task. Either of those gentlemen or any other common acquaintance I will take upon myself exclusively, to obtain the services of, and a certificate of my strict adherence to the proposed terms.

R. R. K.

The copy of his letter to Mr. Winchester, which he enclosed to me and to which he refers in his letter to me, is as follows :—

Friday Morning, *Dec.* 4, 1801.

DEAR SIR,

For the liberty of thus addressing you, the nature and tendency of the communication will suggest an apology.

I last night, and not till last night, had put into my hands a letter written by Mr. Martin, in which he mentions that my having addressed him on Saturday last as having been

2. The part of the postscript here omitted contained a request to omit some part of his letter and his reasons for the request.

represented by him "to have introduced into his family while I was a member thereof, disreputable characters among which were players," was without just cause; in as much as he "never in one instance made a charge against me that I ever introduced into his family a disreputable person of any kind, not even a player.

Mr. Martin has added in the above letter of his, that my complaint of the before mentioned charge, was founded upon a certain extract of one of his letters to me, from which it was evident that he had not made the charge complained of against me.

I have now, Sir, to observe that in several letters addressed to me of late by Mr. Martin, I found many asperities and reproaches which I conceive myself undeserving of, and which much excited my feelings. Mr. Martin's letters however I determined not to notice. As a specimen of his asperities and reproaches, he represented me as a fiend from hell that insidiously and clandestinely crept into his Eden for the most diabolical purposes: which in plain language signifies, that at the time of my entering into his family, as well as afterwards, I was an infamous and unprincipled villain, who by base and mean artifices had insinuated myself into his house and procured the protection of his roof--and this too for the predetermined object of involving him in misery and wretchedness!

Now, Sir, next to my own conscience you are perhaps the best judge in the world of the injustice done me by this reproach—for you yourself were the very person who informed me that Mr. Martin, of his own free-will and accord, offered me, through you a residence in his family and office: though you requested me at the same time if it were not agreeable to me to accept that offer, to draw upon your resources for an establishment else where—Mrs. Winchester's general indisposition being the prevention to your acceptance of me into your own family. [3]

Mr. Martin also in his letters upbraids me, if not expressly, yet by the broadest insinuations, with having professed an attachment to Miss B***, in which I was influenced by

3. I wish Mr. Keene would be so good as to tell us whether "Mrs. Winchester's general indisposition" also prevented Mr. W. from "acceptance of him" in his *office*, which was rather further from his family and not more connected with Mrs. W. than my office!

the most sordid and meanly interested considerations. The same reproach likewise he repeated against me in respect of his own daughter.

Those and other asperities and reproaches which, I say, I felt conscious of not deserving, much excited my feelings. Yet as long as Mr. Martin confined them to his letters to me, and forbore to give them circulation or publicity, I determided to remain silent, by waving even remonstrance itself, much more recrimination. And here I would observe that if Mr. Martin had been a young man situated like myself,—if he had like myself, have loved with sincerest and most disinterested affection, a young lady, though that lady were the daughter of his friend and benefactor, and have possessed the ample assurances of her reciprocation of that affection; [4] and this too under similar circumstances of opposition with my case, yet when that attachment had been strongly formed, [5] and above all when the young lady herself, upon an entire and complete submission to herself of a deliberate and voluntary determination which when made was to be positive and unalterable, had have determined upon the continuation of that attachment when it was firmly promised to be discontinued, and that too forever, if so she willed it. [6] If being thus situated, I repeat, Mr. Martin himself, upon receiving such reproaches and asperities as I received—he too in all probability would have had his feeling excited as much as mine. Upon a former and analogous occasion, to wit: with Miss B. the determination was for a discontinuance of our attachment; [7] and my subsequent

4 & 5. If there was a "reciprocation of that affection" and "if that attachment had been strongly formed," did not those events arise from his basely availing himself of the situation, in which my benevolence had placed him, to, artfully, insidiously, serpent-like, insinuate and wind himself into her affections, when he well knew that I had different views for her—and when he had acknowledged I had a right to expect for her a much more eligible establishment! when also she was such a child as to be easily imposed on—and too ignorant of the world to form a proper choice!

6. As to the *supposition* that he has here made I have such authority, that it is not true, as convinces my mind of its falshood—an authority which he *dare not* controvert.

7. With whom I pray was that determination made? Doth he mean with her *father?*—so did he on the present occasion make the same determination with me,—and that apparently in the most solemn manner!

conduct was employed to carry that determination into effect, [8] as the result has amply proven.

In my state of irritation produced by Mr. Martin's written reproaches I understood from respectable authority, which respectable authority I should take pleasure at any moment in making you acquainted with, that Mr. Martin in his conversation uttered the severest reproaches against me ; which I had every reason to believe were circulating through town : which information in my then state of mind drew from me my letter of Saturday last.

The foregoing representation respecting my having abused the privilege of Mr. M's house, &c. was not founded upon any letter or part of a letter from Mr. M. to me ; but upon verbal communications ; which I can readily convince you I had much reason to be governed by : although in my said letter of Saturday I made some allusions to the letters which I had received from Mr. M ; as for one instance, I quoted the term " fiend," as having been used by Mr. M. as synonymous with myself. Mr. Martin however has denied ever having made the foregoing charge, against me, and his denial I am perfectly willing to admit, and thereafter to admit also that it would have been more prudent in me to have informed Mr. Martin of what I had heard of his verbal representations against me ; and to have requested of him to have informed me whether my intelligence was correct or not before I addressed him as I did on Saturday last. But the situation in which that information found me, will suggest the cause of my not exercising that prudence and moderation towards Mr. Martin, which I now feel no hesitation in acknowledging that I regret ; and am sorry, that I did not exercise. Mr. Martin however can surely make

8. I have such *knowledge* of *facts*, and *evidence* derived *from himself*, as convinces me that his subsequent conduct was not employed to carry that determination into execution but for the very reverse—that he never did cease his designs upon the young lady, to whom he alludes, nor his endeavours to ensnare her affection, suntil my children returned from New-York, when I believe he gave her up, under the idea that he would, in consequence of his situation, and my almost constant absence from my family, have a much better chance to ensnare my Eleonora;—and considering that Mr. B. had a *great number* of children, and some of them *sons*, I doubt not he calculated that the change would be not less beneficial to him—and the " result has only proved" that he gave up one *improper* pursuit, for another *more improper*, but more likely to be attended with success !

some allowance for the influence of the resentment of others, when his own prompted him, without ascertaining what authority I had for my letter of Saturday to proclaim to the world, that in such letter I had made false and malicious complaints of him; or what was equivalent thereto. [9]

I must add that my second and third causes of complaint against Mr. M. as stated in my said letter of Saturday, were, as well as, the first, founded upon verbal communications; and never would have been expressed but for such communications.

You will readily conceive, Sir, that having had much reason to believe that Mr. M. had made in his conversations these severe reproaches against me, as represented to him in my letter of Saturday; and that those reproaches were circulating through town, you will readily conceive I say, under all circumstances that, my said letter of Saturday to Mr. M. although not a prudent measure, was yet a *very natural one.* [10]

I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. R. KEENE.

The Hon. J. WINCHESTER.

Satisfied, in my own mind that upon an investigation he could produce no other foundation for the pitiful pretence that I had been circulating reports to his prejudice, through the streets and alleys of the city, and that under the irritation arising from that belief he had been induced to write me the insolent, impertinent letter of the 28th of November, except the communications which I had had with Mr. ****, I determined to put him to the test, and immediately wrote and sent him the following letter:

9. Mr. Martin in that publication only said it was "filled with the grossest misrepresentations:" But had he said it was filled with false and malicious complaints the language would have been *much milder* than it deserved.

10. The *old excuse*,—there is not one improper, base act, of which he at any time is guilty but he accounts for as being "very natural"—and indeed *to him* they are *very natural!*

Baltimore, December 25, 1801.

SIR,

On my return from the city of Washington, I received, through the medium of the post office, a letter addressed to me, inclosing the copy of a letter addressed by you to Mr. Winchester. In that letter I find you have attempted to *excuse* your *conduct to me*, in the *same manner*, as you attempted to excuse to me your conduct to Mrs *T.* That is, that you was induced to write to me your *insolent letter* of the latter part of November, in consequence of the irritation of your passions arising from information, you had received from *respectable authority*, with which respectable authority you would with pleasure make Mr. W. acquainted, that I was *on every occasion uttering the severest reproaches against you.*

There could be no motive for your enclosing to me the copy of your letter to Mr. W. but what will justify my demand for the *names* of your respectable authority, and to be made acquainted with them, together with a *specific written statement of what you understood from each individual, whose name you shall introduce.* As you have thought proper to enclose me the copy of your letter to Mr. W. I feel myself bound in justice to you, to them, and myself to make this demand; and presume that you cannot feel less pleasure to make me acquainted with your authority than you would feel to make Mr. W. acquainted therewith, and the world must admit that there is full as much propriety, that I should be the depository of your information.

A speedy answer is expected by

LUTHER MARTIN.

To this I received the following answer accompanied by two letters, or certificates:

Baltimore, Dec. 26, 1801.

SIR,

Your note of the 25th inst. demanding the authority upon which I represented you in a letter addressed to you last month, as having uttered severe and unmerited reproaches

against me I did not receive until an hour or two ago. I immediately requested of Mr. J*** W***, jun. and Mr. **** **** [1] a written statement of certain information which I had received from them respecting your said reproaches against me—their answers are now, herewith, presented to you. You will perceive from those answers that I had much reason to believe that your reproaches complained of by me were circulating generally through town, for as a person who professed himself, a principal depository [2] of your communications gave publicity to said communications against me, as he alledged to be the case, such publicity was the same to me as if having been made in every instance by yourself. Much more could be added against your cloven-footed confidant, if any addition were necessary.

R. R. KEENE.

The following is the letter to Mr. Keene from Mr. J. W. which was enclosed to me :—

Saturday Morning Dec. 26, 1801.

SIR,

Your note of this morning requesting of me a written statement of information which I some time in last month communicated to you respecting Mr. Martin's censure against you I will to the best of my recollection comply with your request.

In conversation with Mr. *** ***** of **** street in

1. Mr. Clifford.

2. This gentleman, to whom I have before alluded, and whom I did presume would be the only authority he would produce, was only the depository of my communications, as I have already explained, because he had been made by Keene the depository of his secrets and of his communications—and was during the whole time, and a considerable time after the conversations referred to frequently in the company of Keene and Clifford and they in his in the utmost familiarity—and as he and Keene frequently were with Clifford together, at whose table Keene made no secret of his attachment to my daughter, and of the terms on which he and myself were, so the very information referred to in the letters he produced were given to Keene in company with Clifford and his family.—It was *thus* that he gave to my reproaches this *offensive* "*publicity*;" which Keene made the pretext for writing me that letter.

the presence of Mr. [3] *****, that gentleman mentioned that Mr. Martin had represented you while a member of his family with having introduced improper characters therein among whom were players, and moreover that this reprehensible conduct of yours was committed with a view of having Miss Martin's attention [4] taken up with such characters that you might thereby have the better opportunity of enjoying the conversation and company of Miss Eleonora.

Whilst I am stating those circumstances I must in justice to myself add that from the manner in which the information was given to me I did not conceive the charge brought against you as intended to be kept secret. [5]

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. W——, jr.

The letter from Mr. Clifford is as follows :

Baltimore, December 26, 1801.

DEAR SIR,

In answer to your note of this morning, requesting a statement of information received in my presence by you from Mr. —— ———, &c. I have to observe, that I have heard Mr. ——— tell you, that Mr. Martin has frequently represented you to him, as having acted in a dishonourable manner towards a certain Mr. B's family, and that Mr. B. was in the habit of representing you as an infamous cha-

3. Mr. Clifford.

4. In one of his "*precious confessions*" to me of what I should not have known, had he not supposed me to have been informed, he acknowledged that on a certain occasion when a walk was taken with my daughters, he had procured another gentleman to be of the party, in order that her attentions should be engaged by him and therefore that he might have an opportunity to devote *his* attentions to my other daughter—which he observed was "*very natural.*"

5. There certainly was no occasion for this apology—there is nothing here certified but what I said enough to Mr. ****, his informant to justify—Mr. W. is correct in what I said—the epithet I used was "*improper,*" not "*disreputable*"—and that applied in *only one single instance* to any person, whom I ever knew to be by any person introduced into my house.

racter and treating you with contempt when he sees you, and that Mr. B. was ready to affirm the same at any time; and that Mr. Martin himself spoke of you in the same terms as Mr. B. adding that Mr. E—— H——, your uncle viewed and treated you in the same light. Mr. —— has also observed another charge brought against you by Mr. Martin, viz: That while you were a member of his family you introduced to the acquaintance of his daughters disreputable characters amongst which were players. I am sorry to be brought forward in so unpleasant an affair as this, but I conceive it a duty I owe myself and friends to observe that Mr. —— has frequently spoken in the most disrespectful terms of Mr. Martin and his family.

I have heard Mr. —— speak also in terms of encouragement to you to proceed in your attachment to Miss Eleonora Martin, and he has invited Miss Eleonora and you in the same evening to his house.

I am,
Dear Sir,
Your friend, &c.

*** ****

Upon the receipt of Keene's last letter and the two aforesaid accompaniments I wrote and sent Mr. Keene the following letter.

December 27, 1801.

SIR,

It was not till eleven this morning that I read your letter with the accompaniments.

Thus then, the *only* person you give as your *respectable authority*, that I had spoken of you in such a manner, as to justify your letter to me of the 28th of November, is Mr. ——, whom *you* think proper to call "*a cloven-footed confidant.*"—And such is the *palliation* you offer for your conduct!

I found Mr. ——, either in consequence of his intimacy with Mr. Clifford, with whom I understood he frequently met you,—or from your intimacy in his family, had become to a certain degree the confidant of your designs on my daughter, and acquainted with what had passed between us.

That he knew I had sent you certain letters,—and that you boasted of my daughter's determination in your favour, regardless of her father's sentiments.

I explained to him, without hesitation, that I had insuperable objections to your union with my daughter, and the consequences which would attend it;—though not in *stronger* terms than I have explained the same to yourself.—I solemnly assured him as I have repeatedly assured you, that the crime should carry with it its own punishment,—and God knows I could not wish to either of you a greater, left, as she would be left, from that moment unknown by her father. [6]

I certainly considered Mr. —— selected by you as a kind of mediator between you and myself.—I had reason thus to view him, as you know how frequently you, for a time, visited at his house.—And you may probably remember, when one day I stepped from his gate into the street, how swiftly, although you was coming towards it, *you turned* and *retrode* your steps to Baltimore Street. Oh, how have I wished that you would have, with the same celerity, retrode your steps from the vale of dishonour to the summit of virtue!—Thus considering Mr. ——, I read to him some of the letters, or some parts of them, which I had written to you,—and of course explained my allusions to Miss —— and Mrs. ——, &c. and spoke of your conduct towards them, as *you know* I think of it.

He told me that you made use of Mr. B's name in support of your general respectability and of the honourable manner, in which you had conducted yourself, in every thing which related to his family, as you know you have in your letters to me made similar representations to myself.—I told him in reply, that I well knew Mr. B's real sentiments of you, and that they were not such as you represented, however willing he might be, as long as you did not interfere with his happiness to avoid saying any thing to your

6. Some of my friends, who know how I conduct myself towards my unfortunate child, when I *accidentally* meet her, may without consideration, think I act in contradiction to this declaration.—But when I declared I would never know her as a *father*—I did not mean to preclude myself from knowing her as a *gentleman*—nor, in consequence, wherever we might meet treating her with that kindness, that politeness, and that attention, which, to an agreeable, accomplished lady is due from every gentleman; and of which she ought not to be deprived because she was once a beloved daughter.

prejudice.—And when I read that part of my letter, wherein, I charged you with having "endeavoured to injure two lovely girls in the opinion of their father and their friend" &c.—I explained it precisely in the same manner, as I have heretofore explained it to you ;—not that you ever was concerned in introducing to my family a *disreputable* character ; but an *improper* character.—I mean Mr. —— whom I ever thought as *reputable* as yourself, and only improper, as being an actor, and, by reason of the situation of my children, who having lost their mother, and their father being much of his time absent, were frequently, in a great measure, without a protector, in consequence of which the tongue of censure might, as has really been the case, animated by your breath, spit its malignity against them.—I did also express as my opinion, that as far as you had countenanced his visits, or the visits of others, you had been actuated by the expectation that your attentions to my Eleonora would be less noticed by her sister, in consequence of her attentions being engaged by others,—but these communications were made to Mr. —— under the circumstances I have before stated, and were confined to him, as to a person of whom *you* appeared to have made a confidant, and with an expectation that they would be freely communicated to you, as well as with a design to guard him against imposition. But how could these facts serve as an excuse for your assertion that I was publishing calumnies against you thro' "the streets and alleys" of this city, when in truth I had not, at that time, mentioned your name, as deserving of censure, or as in any manner connected with the name of my daughter, I believe to ten men in America,—and I believe not to more than four ladies, and to those, just so far only, as to convince them of the impropriety of being made instruments for carrying on a clandestine correspondence ; although I at the same time knew the advantage you was taking of the delicate silence I had preserved.

There is a part of your communication, which I leave to Mr. —— to settle as he may think proper, to whom I have, as must have been expected, sent a copy of Mr. Clifford's letter.—But how eagle-eyed can you, Sir, be, on certain occasions, though blind as a bat, where you are yourself concerned !—when the epithet "cloven-footed," came from your pen, did not your eyes *involuntarily turn* towards your

own feet? In the *number* of individuals, who have shared in my benevolence, it would be wonderful, indeed, that you should be the only unworthy character, but that Mr. —— should add to the number would indeed give me pain.

As far as relates to the other subjects of your letter of the 23d of December, I must acknowledge that, after having been fastidiously assured by you that further communication by writing was useless, I did not expect to have been again thus addressed—much less did I expect that the man, who had insinuated I would not publish *all* that had passed between us, [7] should now solicit the suppression of a part;[8] or that a person, who had shewn so total a disregard to delicacy and honour in his conduct to me and my family, should plead delicacy to others as a motive for such suppression.—Your letter of February last *will* be published as you expect—it is necessary that it should be published to prove the want of truth and of candour in your letter of the 28th of November:—if you have introduced into your letters the names of any persons *improperly*, or taken improper liberties with them, it is not my fault,—it rests with yourself.—If in any instance I do not give *names*, and publish the *whole* of your letters, my conduct will proceed, not from *your request*, but from my own sense of propriety, and my respect for those, whose names you have so incorrectly introduced.

Your letters, as far as they shall be published, shall be published *verbatim et literatim;* because you shall not say, I have, in that respect, added thereto or diminished therefrom; but fear not;—my charges against you will not be for *grammatical* errors; had you none other, you might yet have been an honourable inmate in my family, and not the disturber of my happiness.

You appear anxious, I should retract the charge, I have made against you of "wanton misrepresentation," and have given me the trouble of reading the copy of your letter to judge Winchester to convince me that I ought to retract that charge. Ah, Sir, what a proof have you here given me, of the truth of that adage, "*Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat*," your very letter to Mr. W. contains additional proof of direct misrepresentation.—But *what could*

7. See his publication in Yundt and Brown's paper of the 1st Dec. last.

8. This alludes to that part of the postscript of his letter which is omited.

be your motive to write to judge Winchester? who had *cast you off* even before your letter of February, as in that letter you informed me! But of that letter you say you have not a copy;—I believe you,—hence therefore you write, as I must suppose, not to give conviction to those to whom you write, but that you may shew the copies to those, on whom you have fixed yourself. Enjoy, Sir, the short-lived triumph.

But *one thing* I cannot pass over in silence, your attempt to induce Mr. Winchester to suppose, that you had offered, generously and nobly, to acquiesce in my sentiments, and to give up all your pretentions to my Eleonora, but that her affection to you was such that she refused her consent.—Base slanderer of youthful credulity and innocence! How comes it then, that you *dare not* let her affection be *tested* by time, that, though you have acknowledged the impropriety of her marrying for this two years to come, you are endeavouring to excite in her young mind hatred to her sister,—contempt and hatred for her father,—and are *daily* urging her to disregard his sentiments,—to act in direct opposition to his commands,—and to keep up a secret correspondence with you by letters, by messages and by personal interviews! But I feel that I am anticipating what is designed for the perusal of yourself and our acquaintances, *only in print*, in which you shall receive a fuller answer.

LUTHER MARTIN.

MODERN GRATITUDE.

——— "QUID NON MORTALIA PECTORA COGIS
AURI SACRA FAMES? ———

Thou fruitful source of crimes, accursed thirst of Gold,
How oft by thee *are Virtue, Honour, Conscience,* Sold!

(No. V.)

THE delay to the completion of this publication is to me a circumstance most painful, but hath been unavoidable. For five weeks past I have been in the constant attendance on the general court at this place ;1—and for the last twenty-one days, except Sundays, have been constantly employed in the trial of causes, most generally, from nine in the morning until six or eight in the evening. On each intervening Sunday I have been in Baltimore,—and each Monday morning in Annapolis before nine o'clock.—I have therefore not had a moment to devote to the press.—Knowing my situation, and that the Court of Appeals and the Chancery Court follow the General Court in immediate succession, and must engross my time and attention, Mr. Keene has with that art, so *habitual* to him, availed himself thereof to publish what he has called "a Letter directed to me," and to secure to it a circulation of some time, before it can be fully answered.

It is the *most extraordinary tissue of falshood and misrepresentation* that was ever formed by *ungrateful malignity*—

1. Annapolis.

For the sake of my unfortunate child, for whom my heart yet bleeds, I could most ardently have wished that such correctness and propriety had marked every part of Mr. Keene's conduct, since he became united to her, as might have excited *astonishment*, in all, who witnessed it, that I could ever have opposed *their union*.—But, regarding only myself, he could not have possibly done an act to me more gratificatory, than the publication of that letter; which to all, who may see it, must be completely evincive that my objections to him were just,—founded on a thorough knowledge of his character and flowing from the tenderest regard for my daughter.

Whoever shall read that Letter must admit that I ought infinitely rather to have preferred seeing my Eleonora wedded to her grave than to that man. Whoever shall read that Letter must acknowledge in him an original, who might have, with propriety, sat for the severe though just picture drawn by Juvenal—

——"*Monstrum nulla Virtute redemptum*
A Vitiis." ——————————————

A Man,
Whose Soul 's envrapp'd in Vice's blackest night,
Where not one *Star of Virtue sheds the feeblest* Light.

To *one* part of that Letter I shall devote a portion of this number—the *remainder* of his publication will be *properly* noticed in due time.

Having assumed as a fact that I had said something concerning his brothers and uncles, suggesting that they too had been fortune hunters, he takes the opportunity of launching forth into high and extravagant encomiums upon those his relations; and to render the contrast the more striking favours the reader with a *fictitious* history of my youth, and represents me to have been, like himself, *an abandoned wretch*, and an *ungrateful scoundrel*.—But I will give the whole in his own words:

"In order to strengthen your reproaches against me, you have represented, as I have learned, that I had a number of brothers and paternal uncles, who were all '*fortune-hunters, like myself.*'

"I have but two brothers—one a boy of ten years old—the other older than myself. He who has arrived to man-

hood, has established a character upon the pedestals of rectitude and honour, which no assaults of obloquy can scale, nor storms of enmity shake. Among his intimate friends are, Bishop Clagget, Cols Hemesly and Tilghman, the Hon. James Holliday, and Capt. Thomas. Those men are known to possess equal respectability with any others, of the same number, in the state; and they all know him, to be disinterested and upright; and hold both his talents and his virtues, in sincere respect.

"My paternal uncles are three. Two of them have been living for a considerable number of years, upon the Ohio, where they have ever merited and enjoyed, the names of industrious cultivators of the earth, and honest and temperate men.

"To have carried your enmity against those unoffending men, across the intervening mountains, which even intercept from them, the clouds and storms of these regions, strikes us but too forcibly, as being in imitation of that Carthegenian vengeance, which crossed the Alps, into the peaceful plains of Italy, to extirpate the Roman name!

"The Rev. Dr. Keene, the third of my uncles, and the only one, resident in this state, has been made, the object of specific reproach, while the others, have been subjected, to vague abuse, alone. *He* has been charged with having volunteered and pressed his guardianship and charge, about thirty years ago, of his wife's sister, now Mrs. Airy of Dorset, and her property, to further the '*fortune hunting*' views of his family!

"Besides the numerous proofs, that might be obtained, to correct this error, Mrs. Airy herself, in refutation thereof, avows, that his guardianship was *sought for, by herself*, from her conviction, even in puberty, which has been strengthened by every successive year, to the present time, of the integrity, benevolence and disinterestedness of that gentleman.

"Long, long, sir, indeed, has the transcendent worth, of this venerable man, entrenched him in the affections of his acquaintances. Appeal to every gentleman of whatever distinction, in the part of the country where he resides, and they will attest the verity of this statement——or if you choose to extend the sphere of your enquiry, Bishop Clagget, R. Morris, Esq. and Judge Basset, will tell you that he is an orna-

ment to society. And the second of these gentlemen will also inform you, that the learning, the piety and the length and fidelity of his friends services, entitled him, preeminently, to the Episcopal bishoprick of this state, and that he doubtless would have obtained it, but for his own repugnance.

" Following him from the scene of his public duties, which he has zealously performed through a long life, and for the last twelve years, gratuitously till the present season, when old age exhausted him of his strength, and drew from him his resignation, into the recesses of private life, and raising the latch of his door, you find him, like a patriarch of old, smiling in benignity, upon every surrounding object, and enforcing by his example the precept of virtue and religion.

" You yourself have known this man. When you came a youth and a stranger in Maryland, and applied for the tutorship of the Free-school of my native county, and had a competitor in an experienced, and an approved scholar, the man, whose fame you have sought to sully, compassionated your youth and your destitution, and being an influential trustee of that seminary, advocated *your* application, and made interest in *your* behalf; and thereby secured to you, against a popular opponent, the post of honor and of profit. You knew yourself to have been served by his patronage: but the idea of having assisted a destitute young man in his advancement in life, anticipated your thanks, in a reward for his services. You entered into your establishment, but alas! it become *expedient* for you to retire. And thus was forfeited, *not* 'the roof of hospitality' by *a chaste amour*; but the post of honor and of profit by——I blush to state the cause!

" The end of your career left you in a worse predicament, than that, in which, its commencement found you.

" Did the man whom you considered your benefactor, reproach or upbraid you, with a breach of confidence, and spurn you from his friendship? No—he invited you to his house and begged you, as long as you chose to make it your home: and to prevent any pain of obligation, by an apparent reciprocation of service, he added thirty pounds a year, which in those times, especially in a recluse country place, was of considerable account, to your support in his family, on the terms of your rendering occasional instruction to one of his little nephews—seeing he had no child himself.

" You deemed it *expedient* however to decline his offer,

though not without boundless thanks for his kindness and liberality, and to seek a more *distant* place, upon the borders of Pocomoke, from your *late* abode.

" Such was, and is, the man, whom, although tottoring on the brink of the grave, you cannot suffer to sink down, without twitching his hoary locks with the hand of reproach! And yet you upbraid me with ingratitude! Alas! frail man, how readily you descry and criticise the motes, in the eyes of thy brethren, while beams are lodged within thy own!"

Let me now, gentle reader, unfold to you the full amount of that guilt, which has drawn down upon my devoted head these thunderbolts of vengeance hurled by the hand of this avenging Jupiter.

Two or three times, in the social circle, indulging myself in that kind of sarcastic pleasantry, which is most generally, the proof of a tortured heart, but *even* in those instances *strictly confining myself to truth*, I have observed that it was not to be wondered at that Keene should be a Fortune-Hunter, for that his whole family had been so before him, " *ab ovo usque ad Mala*;"—with this qualification, that I considered the Reverend Samuel Keene, " the hoary Patriarch" to whom he alludes, as being from his education and from the professional situation in which he stood, entitled to form the connexion which had taken place with his wife, without being ranked in that description. I further stated, that his uncles, adopting a policy of the same nature with that, which has long been adopted by the Democrats, who make it an invariable rule to consult together what candidate may have the best chance for success, and then to unite their efforts in his favour, in like manner, when they had discovered a rich *old Widow*, or a rich *young Maid* were accustomed to hold a consultation, and when, having exhausted all the arguments on the subject, they had decided upon the happy man, who was destined to bear off the golden fleece, were also accustomed to unite all their efforts in his favour; and that in consequence it was not unusual for them to pursue the game in *couplets* or *triplets*,—in order that while the *Lover elect* should engross the attention of the lady, the *associates* might engross the attention of whoever else might be of the company,—for the idea of providing associates to amuse and take up the attention of such of the company as might otherwise *observe* or *interfere* is not merely of *yesterday's growth*.

Nay, for I will confess the whole extent of my sin, I have on these occasions, indulging a degree of ill-nature, beyond which I seldom go, to amuse my friends and to gratify the then moodiness of my temper, called up to their imagination a scene, not founded in fiction, in which, as all the brothers danced, and some of them played on the fiddle, was seen, as soon as the good lady began to smile and appear pleased with the soft things whispered in her ear, the fiddle produced; for the fiddle was a good travelling companion on those occasions—then your ears might be delighted with the charming squeak, squeak of the bow on the cat-gut,—and your eyes transported with the elegant and graceful capers and coupees when Madam, at the *humble request* of her *transported* admirer *condescended* to do him the *infinite honour* of *walking with him a Minuet.*

This innocent, this inoffensive, sportiveness of a heart wounded almost to death by the basest and most ungrateful conduct of their nephew, that nephew compares to Carthagenian vengeance crossing the Alps into the peaceful plains of Italy to extirpate the Roman name—for this I am charged with *twitching* out the grey hairs of a good old Patriarch, even, *tottering* on the very brink of the grave.

His two good old uncles, who have, it seems long since gone—

"*O'er the Hills and far away,*"

and become, some where on the Ohio, "industrious cultivators of the earth, and such honest and temperate men,"—have never had *their peace* disturbed *by me.*

The innocent laugh, which I have excited, has not had the least tendency to their *extirpation*—it could in no respect tend to affect *their present* or future situation in life;—the sound of our mirth was not loud enough to reach *their ears*, or to break in on *their repose*—Of it *they* have no knowledge, and, if ever they receive the information, it will be owing to their hopeful nephew, who cannot spare even his nearest and most unoffending connexions, but has taken pains to procure publicity to charges, for which *they* will not thank him, because *they well know*, that those charges are *true.*

As to the venerable, good "old Patriarch," whom I believe I know almost as well as Bishop White, Bishop Clagett, R. Morris, or Judge Bassett, at least, I know him so well that I certainly shall never think it worth my while to go to either of

those gentlemen for further information—of him I have ever spoken with respect and esteem—I have ever been treated by him with a reciprocation of those sentiments—I never plucked a hair, of *any colour* whatever, from his *venerable head;* nor did I ever even make a *twitch* at any of those hairs, I am confident, that I have never, in any instance, since I existed, been to his heart the cause of one solitary, momentary, pain—*His fulsome panegyrist cannot say the same.*—He, alas, on the contrary, must have been cut off from all communication with this venerable old Patriarch;—he must have been prohibited from entering into the recesses of his private life;—he, alas, has not been permitted to raise the latch of his door, to witness the smiles of benignity,—and to view him, by his example, enforcing the precepts of virtue and religion, *or* he has contemplated the delightful scene as *Satan* contemplated the radiance of the sun,—with hatred and with envy.—*He* has not *profited* from the *sight*—The *Pearls* have been thrown before *swine.*

As to *his* brothers;—of the eldest I have never uttered a sentiment disrespectful: To a gentleman, who spoke of him as being worthy and good, I only observed that if he merited that character, which I had no reason to doubt, he had monopolized all that worth, which ought to have been divided between him and his brother Richard.—As to the youngest, I have never mentioned his name in any manner:—he is young—for his sake, for the sake of his friends and his country—and for the sake of all, who may ever have any connexion with him, sincerely do I hope he is, and may continue to be, a very different character from the hero of my story.—I have no acquaintance with *either* of his brothers—I do not know them even by sight;—but should I ever become acquainted with them—the demerit of their relation shall not deprive them of receiving on my part all that *politeness and attention,* which *they may deserve.*

But to return to his uncles—"My paternal uncles (says he) *are* three."—*Are* three!—But why did not he tell us how many they *had* been?—Was it because he is ashamed of them? *He* need not;—were they living, they would have infinitely more cause to blush for their nephew, than he has ever had to blush for any one of them.—If my memory serves me aright, though his paternal uncles *are now but three,* they *once* were not *less* than *eight.*

I will *confine myself to facts*, leaving the region of *fiction* for him to explore.

A gentleman of considerable fortune departed this life a little after the middle of the last century.

One *uncle* married the *widow*—Two of the *uncles* became the happy husbands of *two* of the *daughters*—and one of the *aunts* was prevailed on to bestow her hand on a *son*, while another son received the hand of a Niece.—The *monopoly* was not complete :—There was a *little girl*, whom I first saw when about twelve or thirteen years of age,—she was *amiable* and *interesting*—She was supposed to have been destined for the *youngest uncle*, who was *old enough* to have been her *father*, but " *cruel fate*" assuming the form of the *father* " of the *wife* of the late Governor of Delaware" interfered, and marr'd the well digested plan.—Even " my mother's brother" was, I believe, at an early period deeply entangled in the well woven web, but through the interposition of the same " cruel fate" escaped from being devoured.

Never, while my heart continues to beat shall I forget thee, thou sainted L——r,—in thee were combined all the mild virtues and attractions of thy sex.—Never shall I forget how thy gentle spirit, like the most delicate of flowers wounded by the *rude share*—drooped, and was bowed down ; how it pined and faded away, until it found its shelter and place of abode, in the bosom of its God!—She was left by the death of her father, his only child, a young and lovely orphan ;—the loss of the father was—to the mother supplied by *another* of the uncles !

Even as to what relates to the good, the virtuous, " the hoary Patriarch," I have *not forgot* that between him and Doctor Garnett there was once almost as violent a dispute, which of them should be the guardian of the amiable interesting sister, whom I have mentioned, as ever took place, according to an old obsolete book, now but little respected, between the Devil and the arch-angel Michael, concerning the body of Moses.—Nor have I forgot, that though the good old Patriarch had the charming girl brought before Governor Eden, that she might have an opportunity of making her free choice, under the allegation that she was unduely influenced and restrained by the Doctor—and when thus before the Governor, and privately requested to declare, without the least restraint, whom she wished to be her guardian,

she declared in favour of Dr. G. The Governor, with that politeness, for which he was remarkable, endeavoured to lessen the good " old Patriarch's" mortification, by observing " it was no uncommon thing, in the history of the world, for fine ladies to change their minds in matters even of still greater importance."—If, as was then generally thought, the solicitude of his uncle to become the guardian of Miss H. was with the hope of facilitating the designs of a younger brother, I am willing to suppose he was influenced only by fraternal affection, which might probably cause him to view the merits of that brother as being much superior to what they appeared to any other observer, and not by a desire to sacrifice the happiness of a lovely girl to the interests of his own family.

But Mr. Keene tells the public that Mrs. Airy, for he has no mercy on his relations, but appears determined to publish to the world every respectable name, from his aunt Airy to his mother's " niece the wife of the late Governor of Delaware and her near kinswoman, Mrs. Bennet Chew," [1] so unfortunate as to be in any manner connected with or related to him.—His aunt Airy [2] herself, he says, avows that the guardian ship of his aged and reverend uncle

" 1. My mother was sister to Doctor Harris, of this place, aunt to the wife of the late Governor of Delaware, and near kinswoman of Mrs. Bennet Chew." Page 9 of Keene's letter to Luther Martin, Esq.

2. I should like to know whether my much respected friend Mrs. A. whom I have not seen for a year or two past, yet remembers the celebrated Billet doux, which caused us upwards of thirty years ago so much good natured amusement Beginning with " My dear, little, little, little angelic *Creature*" in which she was informed by her aged inamorato of a delightful dream, with which he had been blessed the preceding night; in *which dream* he discovered, in her uncle Sammy's garden, a most beautiful little, little, *white Rabbit*, with which he was so delighted, that, being determined to catch it, *if he could*, he pursued after it;—*it* ran—he still pursued; and *it* still ran,—through currant bushes, gooseberry bushes and rasberry bushes the white rabbit fled,—through the same he pursued;—the poor little rabbit got its tender limbs sadly scratched and torne,—his legs came off but little better. Sir Joseph Banks was not more determined to sieze on the Emperor of Morocco,—nor was the Emperor more determined to elude the grasp of Sir Joseph.—But alas, what avail the best formed resolutions of the weaker part of the creation, when pursued by a determined lover.—— The poor little white rabbit, after exerting all its ingenuity in shifts and doubles innumerable, at length, all its strength exhausted, fled for shelter to the *cabbage hole*—alas, in vain! from thence its pursuer triumphantly dragged it forth—when fondly pressing the beautious prize to his exulting

" was sought for by herself, from her conviction, even in *puberty*, which has been strengthened by every successive year to the present time, of the integrity, benevolence and disinterestedness of that gentleman."

Of this we have no proof but *his own assertion*, which has long since ceased to be of any authority with me.—She certainly told a very different story to Governor Eden.

Doth he mean to insinuate that Doctor G. when his fair ward was at the " age of puberty," with full power and opportunity to choose her guardian, and after she had herself *sought* for the guardianship of the Rev. Mr. Keene, was base enough unduly to influence or restrain that choice, and procure her thus to insult that integrity, benevolence and disinterestedness, the protection of which she had herself voluntarily sought, by scornfully rejecting that protection when offered, and giving to himself the avowed and effective preference?—And to whom would he give such a character?—To the *deceased father* of " the wife of the late Governor of Delaware!" I believe most persons will agree with me, that he had better have omitted every thing which he has introduced on this subject—or not have informed us of his having any relationship to the respectable wife of that respectable gentleman.

In the midst of that highly coloured panegyric bestowed by him on an uncle, whom I believe, I respect and esteem much more than he himself doth, Keene informs us that this uncle " has zealously performed his public duties for the last twelve years, gratuitously."—It was to the same gentleman he referred, when in his letter to me he used the following expressions, " a worthy and reverend uncle has amply the will (to assist him Keene) but none of the ability to go *beyond his own support*." [3] Most strangely inconsistent indeed—that the man who had indigent relations, in so near degree, to assist whom he had so amply the *will*,—but whose own poverty was such as to deprive him of *any* " *ability* to go beyond *his own support*" should have devoted the

heart " what do you think I found it to be?—Why it was no other than my dear little, little angelic P—y H—s!!"—Take the foregoing for a family *sample*. Whether the Nephew has much improved upon it, the public may determine.

3. No. I, page 12.

twelve last years of his life to the *gratuitous* performance to his parishioners of those clerical duties, for which they were so able, and, from the exalted character, which, we are told, he all that time has borne, we cannot but suppose, were also, so willing to have made him compensation!

To such a Clergyman, from such a parish, two hundred pounds a year would have been a very moderate salary.—How infinitely more praise-worthy would it have been for him to have received regularly that "hire" of which he as a "labourer was worthy" and by expending a part thereof in the support of that nephew, unless indeed he considered him, as I suspect to be the case, totally underserving, have saved me from the injuries I have suffered from him!—In that volume, to the inculcation of the truths of which he has set apart so great a portion of his life, he will find written that "the man who neglects to provide for those of his own household is worse than a Heathen."—How Keene will reconcile the two so different representations he has given of his "reverend uncle" I know not;—nor do I know whether there is any truth in the one or the other of those representations:—Truth and consistency are not articles to which he thinks himself bound to be confined.

Having done with the patriarchal part of his family, who, I am satisfied, will be convinced that nothing but the unblushing folly of his nephew could have induced me to have brought forward a name, which though not entirely free from the weaknesses of human nature, I have always been in the habits of mentioning with respect,—I will just add, that I, in no small degree, wonder while Mr. Keene was boasting of his relationship to the *present*, he had not also informed us that another of his *uncles* married the *mother* of the *former* "wife of the late Governor of Delaware." But perhaps he concealed it out of mercy to the public, not choosing to break out upon them, all at once, in the fullest brightness of his lustre.

I could go on in justification of the *fortune-hunting* charge, which with some truth, he says I made against his family, and recite the history of the other marriage connexions, both the first and second, formed by his *other* uncles, for some of them married more than once, but I am really fatigued with a subject, of which the public, for me might have remained ignorant, had he not thought it of sufficient mag-

nitude to bring it himself into public notice, and found thereon, what he meant as, severe reproaches against myself.—Nay—goaded on by the dæmon of revenge, and indulging the favourite propensity of his heart for defamation, he took the trouble to cross the Chesepeak, and traverse the county of Queen Ann to ransack the archives of a period more than thirty years past,—to pry into the secret history of my youth,—with the greedy hope that he might there find some precious anecdote that might in some degree tarnish the brightness of that sun, which, with sycophantic adulation, he but a few short months past professed all but to adore.—

Little did those, with whom he conversed on that occasion, know the base purpose for which he was seeking information.—And how must his malignant heart have been tortured when he found not a tongue but what pronounced my name with respect,—with what infernal zeal did he strive to investigate every aberration of an ardent, unsuspecting youth, thrown upon the world without one *relative*,—nay, without even *one friend*, but those, whom he might under such circumstances, be so fortunate as to make,—to guide and direct his feet through the snares of an untried and a villainous world ! ! And with what hellish transport would his whole soul have been overflowed could he have found one single act, which could have imbued my name with the stain of dishonour ! !—After having blasted the dearest happiness of his best benefactor, what hellish trasport would it have been to his soul could he have found the means of also blasting my honour ! !

One advantage he did obtain ;—and of that he was determined to make the utmost use in his power :—He acquired the knowledge of events, which at this *distance of time*, he hoped to be able to discolour by the grossest misrepresentation ;—and for the rest,—he determined boldly to attempt the effectuation of his purpose by downright falsehood, and base innuendo.—Like the revengeful Juno, rather than be defeated in an object so dear to his heart, he exclaimed,

" *Flectere si nequeam Superos, Acheronta Movebo.*"
Since Saints and Angels prove uncivil,
I'll strike a bargain with the Devil.

Hence it is that I feel myself justified in giving to the public a succinct history of the earlier part of my life—and shall flatter myself, that, should I be therein, in some degree an egotist, I shall notwithstanding receive their indulgence.

Two brothers of that family, from which I derive my name, were among the first settlers in East-Jersey—They came *immediately*, I believe, from Piscataqua in New-England, with the ancestors of the Dunns, the Dunhams, the Fitz Randolphs, the Mannings, the Bonhams, and other old and respectable families in that state.—They fixed on that part of the country adjoining to the Rariton, on the east of New-Brunswick, and called the township Piscataqua, after the name of the place, which they had left.—My ancestors were natives of England;—and though I honour the worthy and good of every clime, and am as free from nationality as I think any man ought to be, yet I can truly say I know not a nation on the habitable globe, to be descended from natives of which would give my heart superior pleasure.

That part of the Jerseys, was at the time, of which I am speaking, to a great degree, an uncultivated wilderness, inhabited by its copper-coloured aborigines, yet these first settlers had to build their own huts—to hunt the game of the forest, or ensnare the scaly tenants of the water, for their food;—they had to conquer those forests by the toil of their limbs, and by the sweat of their brows to compel the earth to yield to them its stores; for to them the savages of the wilderness did not stretch forth the hand of hospitality,—to them they pointed not the openings of their wigwams;—to them the savages offered not the flesh of the deer or the bear, the racoon or the opossum, to assuage their hunger, nor the skins of those animals on which they might repose their wearied limbs.—In fine, those savages of the wilderness, notwithstanding all that unbounded hospitality and philanthropy of which modern philosophers, and a modern president, have discovered they once were possessed, in so superior a degree, as to shame even the most civilized and polished professors of Christianity, never once formed an idea of introducing those their white-coloured, emigrant neighbours, into their families,—and inviting them to participate in all the rights and benefits of children.

I will not say, that it may not be possible, this *strange* and *unheard* of unkindness and inhospitality, thus by them experienced, might arise from the circumstance, that these settlers happened *not to be* "*fugitives from distress.*"

I am an American born, of the fourth or fifth generation.

My ancestors were, and most of their descendants have been, of that class or "sect," of people known as agriculturists or cultivators of the earth, and therefore, as Jefferson tells us, have had the happiness of being in the number of "God's *chosen* people, *if ever he had any*"—of which that sage philosopher seems to entertain as great doubts, as I sometimes am inclined to have, notwithstanding his high authority, of Indian hospitality.

Those two of my name, who first came to that part of East-Jersey, obtained grants for lands highly valuable and to a very considerable extent, which is now broken into small farms;—for they and their descendants have been among those not the *least* distinguished for their "conscientious desire to direct their energies to the multiplication of the human race and not to its destruction." [4]

For this conscientious discharge of their duty, they needed not the opinions. the advice nor the exhortation of a sceptical philosopher, if any such philosophers were known to them; to those, whose family motto [5] was selected from the sacred code, the command of their God, particularly when that command was accompanied with a blessing, was sufficient. [6] Numerous yet are the persons who bear my name in New-Jersey,—to almost all of whom, I am more or less distantly, related,—and the descendants from the same family are to be found from the Hudson on the east to the Spanish dominions on the west;—in the states of New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tenessee, and the Territory north-west of the Ohio.

I was the third of nine children all of whom arrived to years of maturity, and all of whom, except one, are yet living. From the moment I could walk until I was twelve years of age, my time was employed, except what was devoted to the acquisition of science, in some manner or other, useful to the family;—when too young for any thing else, I rocked the cradle of a brother or sister that was younger.

4. See the President's Message to the last Congress.

5. "Iaitum Sapientiæ est *Timor Dei*."
"The *fear* of God is the beginning of wisdom."

6. "And God *blessed* them, and God said unto them, be *fruitful*, and *multiply*, and replenish the earth." Genesis chap. 1st, verse 28th.

In my thirteenth year, and in the month of August, I was sent to Princeton college, where I entered the grammar school. I there *began* the *first* Rudiments of the Latin language. In September, five years next after, I received the honours of the college;—during which period I also studied the Hebrew language,—made myself a tolerable master of the French,—and among many other literary pursuits, found time fully to investigate, that most important of all questions, the truth and the divine origin of the Christian Religion.

At Princeton, I early formed an acquaintance with the honourable William Patterson, of New-Brunswick, who has with so much credit to himself, and to his constituents, filled so many of the most important offices a discerning public hath bestowed upon him.

He and myself are natives of the same state—he is acquainted with my family, and has well known several of my relations.

It was there we first formed for each other that friendship and esteem, which have continued unimpaired to the present time.

The amiable, the worthy, the brave John M'Pherson, Esq. who fell with General Montgomery, in the cause of his country, before the walls of Quebeck, and myself trode together the flowery paths of science from the grammar school through all the classes of the college:—we graduated together;—about the same age,—our pursuits were the same:—few brothers were ever bound together by stronger bands of affection.

Among those, on whom memory most delights to dwell, was also the worthy and esteemed son of Capt. Thomas Bowden, he was then an ensign in the British army; but strongly impressed with the great truths of Christianity, on his return to Europe, he gave up his commission, and having there completed his education, took holy orders,—became the chaplain of Lord Milton,—and is now the respectable Rev. Mr. Bowden of Connecticut.

Among those who, were my class-mates and graduated with me, were the late Chief Justice of the United States, the honourable Oliver Ellsworth,—The Rev. Mr. Bacon, now one of the members of congress for Massachusetts.—The Rev. Mr. Balch, *of the Territory* North-West of the Ohio.—Daniel C. Clymer, Esq. of Reading, Penn-

sylvania.—Waightstill Avery, Esq. of North-Carolina and David Howell, Esq. of Rhode-Island.

Among those, with whom I formed an acquaintance while at college, and who were not in the number of my class-mates I can name the Rev. Mr. Story of Marblehead.—Col. Ramsey of the city of Baltimore—his brother Doctor Ramsey of South-Carolina—J. Habersham, Esq. late Post-Master-General.—The Rev. Mr. Gantt of George-Town.—Pierpoint Edwards, Esq. of New-Haven, and the Right Rev. Bishop Clagett of Maryland, whose friendship and esteem *I also* am well known to possess in no small degree.

To any, or to all of these, whose names I have mentioned, and who are now living, I cheerfully refer those, who wish to know what was my character and conduct while a student at that college—either as to the friendliness of my disposition, the correctness of my manners,—my assiduity in my studies, or as to my literary attainments.

From my parents I received a sound mind,—and a good constitution.—They with unceasing tenderness and zeal laboured to impress me with principles of manly independence—with a spirit of kindness and generosity towards my fellow-creatures,—and with reverential love and fear of my God.—And as the best security for my performance of my duty in all situations, in which I might be placed in life, they deeply impressed on my young mind the sacred truths of the Christian Religion, the belief of which, though at that time principally owing to education, has since been rivetted by the fullest conviction,—grounded on a thorough and dispassionate enquiry;—those sacred truths, which, though *too often departed from* in my *practice*, have ever remained too deeply engraven on my heart to be effaced by the hand of infidelity—and the belief of which is my boast.

These, with a liberal education, were all the patrimony they could bestow upon me;—a patrimony, for which my heart bears towards them a more grateful remembrance, than had they bestowed upon me the gold of Peru or the gems of Golconda.

Through the fond partiality of my paternal grandfather, I was the owner of a small tract of land on South-River, not far from New-Brunswick—as soon as the laws of my country gave me the power of disposition, I conveyed it to my

two elder brothers,—as a trifling compensation for the additional toil they had experienced, in contributing to the support of a family, the expences of which had been increased by reason of my education.

When I graduated at Princeton college, I wanted near five months of being nineteen years of age.—Having previously determined to be no longer a burthen to my family, than till my education was completed,—and having fixed upon the profession of the law, against which I knew my father had prejudices, [7] as the mean of my future support and respectability—I had deliberately formed my plan; in pursuance of which, the second day after the commencement, with no other resources, than my horse and the small remains of my pocket money, I left Princeton, *accompanied*, by young Bowden and a few others of my most intimate friends, as far as Philadelphia—from that place I proceeded with as much dispatch, as I could conveniently make, to the Reverend Mr. Hunts, who then resided in Cecil county, near Octorara Creek, to whom, having been informed he wanted an assistant in his school, I had procured letters of recommendation.

By him I was received with kindness and attention:—but found to my disappointment, that a few days before my arrival he had supplied himself with an assistant.

It was *there*, I first contemplated an application for the Free-School of Queen Ann.—The last teacher at that place had formerly lived in the neighbourhood of Mr. Hunt; the account of his death had been recently received, and a relation of his, whom I met at Mr. Hunt's, was preparing to visit the county, in order to settle the affairs of the deceased—I was strenuously urged not only by Mr. Hunt and some of his friends to whom he had introduced me, but also by the young gentleman who was going to Queen Ann, to accompany him,—and, as it was understood the mastership of that school was still vacant, to apply for the appointment.—They encouraged me to hope for success; of the probability of which I might be able to form some judgment before my companion could finish his business, and con-

7. I had the happiness to see my father, not only reconciled to my having adopted that profession;—but to have my youngest brother, Lenox, by him entrusted to me, when not more than ten years of age, to be brought up by me to the same profession.

sequently should have it in my power to return with him, which they declared to be their wish, provided I met with difficulties they did not foresee.—Being furnished with letters of recommendation, we sat out for Queen's-Town in Queen Ann's county;—and there, in consequence of the letters, which had been given to me, and the friendship of my companion, [8] who having visited the place, once or twice, while his relation lived there, had acquired a considerable acquaintance—I soon became introduced not only to some of the trustees of the school, but also to several influential characters in the neighbourhood.

Among those of the trustees, to whom I was thus early introduced, were the late Col. Edward Tilghman, father of Edward Tilghman, Esq. of Philadelphia, Doctor Smith of Queen's-Town—and the Rev. Mr. Neale, uncle of the Honourable Mr. Nicholson, one of the members of congress for this state, by all of whom, but particularly by the last, I was treated with great politeness and hospitality, and received from them such encouragement as determined me to await the result of the decision of a board of trustees, which, however, could not be had until the lapse of some time, in consequence of the sickness, or absence of some of the trustees, or vacancies in the board to be filled up, or by reason of some other cause not now particularly remembered—Whether I ever in the intermediate time waited on the Rev. Samuel Keene, at his own house, I cannot at this period with certainty say, but as he lived in the upper part of the county, remote from Queen's-Town, I am inclined to think that I never did.—On the contrary, as far as my memory serves me, the first time I was introduced to that gentleman was by the Rev. Mr. Neale at his own house, a day or two before the board of trustees met.

Upon the meeting of the board I was, most certainly, preferred "to my competitor," to whom, however "experienced and approved a scholar" he might be, my superiority in that respect was by the trustees not doubted,—two of those gentlemen, themselves of a liberal education and good scholars, had taken some pains to ascertain my fitness; and I took with me—from college a testimonial, from the highest authority, "that, in a class of thirty-five, I was the *first*

8. I think his name was Holmes.

scholar in the languages,—and *second to none* in the *sciences*."—My youth was the only suggestion that was by any person made as an objection to the appointment.—That the Reverend Mr. Keene, as one of the trustees, voted in my favour I never doubted, and in consequence thereof I have always felt for him all that respect due to a person who performs his duty.—He was acting in the execution of a public trust. It was his duty to join in the first opportunity to fill the office ;—he was sacredly bound, if he thought me the most proper person for the appointment to vote for me—and, if he thought I was not such, to vote in favour of my competitor.—He was carrying into execution a trust reposed in him by the laws, and in which he could have no possible private interest, unless he was capable of taking a bribe. I was not benefited to the amount of a farthing, out of the Rev. Mr. Keene's private fortune, or at his expence.—Mr. Keene was not injured, to the amount of a farthing, by any benefit I was to receive.—If I entered upon a " post of honour and profit" the " *Doors thereto* were not, I trust, *broken open*" for my entrance.—I entered upon the appointment, if to receive a reward, to render services also to the *full amount.* I was appointed not from favouritism but from fitness.—How contemptible then the pretence that I was under obligations to the reverend Mr. Keene,—or bound to him by ties of gratitude, because he joind in filling an office, which he could not, without violating his duty to the public, have suffered to continue vacant, and, because filling up that office, he, having no motive of interest to act otherwise, preferred the candidate, whom he thought the most suitable for the appointment.

Is there the most distant analogy between the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Keene towards me—and my conduct towards the Nephew? And if I may with *justice*, in *his opinion*, be charged with ingratitude towards his uncle, to what depth of damnation doth he thereby consent to sink himself.

I did " enter upon that establishment," which I had thus obtained; and remained therein until some time in the month of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy.

My object, in applying for that establishment was, that it might be to me a temporary support during the time, I should find necessary for the acquisition of a competent knowledge of the law.

The late Solomon Wright, Esq. father of the honourable Mr. Wright of the senate of the United States, was at that time living in Queen-Ann.—He was a near connexion of some of those with whom I was early intimate, and whose children were under my care.—I was soon introduced to him and became a frequent visitor in his family—from him I had occasionally the use of such books as I had time to read—by him and his very worthy lady I was during the whole time I remained in that county treated almost as a son ;—and by their children I was always received as a brother.

I continued in Queen-Anne near three years—during which period I had availed myself of the vacations to make several journies ;—at one time I visited my parents in East-Jersey, and on my return purchased in Philadelphia as many law-books as the then state of my funds would enable me to purchase—at another time I made an excursion to Somerset county, where was, at Back-Creek, an academy, in which were employed, as teachers, two most worthy, respectable young gentlemen, who had also been educated at Princeton college, and with whom I had there been most intimately acquainted. [9]

I have already stated that I was only nineteen years of age when I went to reside in Queen-Ann.—The profits which I received as master of the free-school were the only funds I enjoyed—from which I had to defray the expences of cloathing, lodging, board, physic, books, travelling and every other incidental charge—I am not *even yet*, I was not *then*, nor have I *ever* been, an *œconomist* of any thing but *time*. No person will think it a matter of surprize, much less of disgrace, that I did not rigidly restrain my expenditures to my income—or that a youth of my age, of a warm and generous heart, left so totally to his own guidance, should become indebted beyond his power of immediate payment. Under these circumstances, and with the concurrence of some of my friends, whose judgment was most relied on by me, I formed the determination to resign my appointment, which I then held, and devote one year *solely* to the further attainment of legal information ;—at the end of which time we calculated I should be able to enter upon the practice, after which it might soon be in my

9. Messrs. Ephraim Bravard and Thomas Reese.

power to discharge the debt I had already incurred as well as that which must unavoidably be incurred in the intermediate time. With this view, and preparatory to my resignation, I made a second journey to Somerset county. I had fixed upon the neighbourhood of Back-Creek as the place of my residence, during the year, which I meant to devote to the study of the law. For this I had been actuated by two reasons—I thereby should be, for that period, in the enjoyment of the society of my two friends, whom I have mentioned, and whom I greatly esteemed—I had also, when first in that county, formed an intimate acquaintance with some of the most respectable families, particularly with Levin Gale, William Winder, and Samuel Wilson, Esquires, the last of whom lived on Back-Creek, within half a mile of the academy, which was erected on his plantation, and, who, having been brought up to the profession of the law, although he had ceased to practice, possessed an excellent law library, of which he had expressed a willingness that I should have the use, if I settled in that neighbourhood.

While on this visit, I made all the necessary arrangements for the execution of the plan I had formed, which also received the most perfect approbation of my friends in Somerset ;—and while there I contracted with a respectable farmer, who lived within a mile of Mr. Wilson, for one year's board commencing from the time, when I expected to have it in my power to return to that place.

My *then* journey to Somerset, and the objects I had in view, were well known to several of my most respectable friends and acquaintance, in Queen-Ann, and met with their decided concurrence.

I had to return to settle with the trustees for a balance due to me—to give in my resignation ; and even to make such arrangements with those to whom I was indebted, as to them shouldbe satisfactory,—*or*, if that could not be effected, at least to look out for some one of my friends, who would be my bail in suits, which might be prosecuted against me.

I *did* return as was intended.—Two creditors, whose debts, altogether amounted to no more than *eleven pounds, eight shillings and ten pence*, for I have the records before me, having heard, some vague report, that I was about to leave the county, and thinking it possible I might not return, had in the mean time taken out attachments against me to se-

cure their debts. The conduct of those two creditors had created a momentary alarm, and caused my other creditors to bring suits against me for their claims. Five writs were served upon me.—I had no difficulty in procuring security for my appearance.—I applied to Solomon Wright, Esq. who then practised in the county court, who was good enough to agree to be my counsel, if necessary, in those actions. He well knew all my views, and the moment my creditors were made acquainted therewith,—not having a wish to distress me without benefit to themselves—and conscious I would pay them as soon as it should be in my power,—at the appearance court, in the month of March, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy, each of the suits were entered "struck off."—But what was the amount of the whole aggregate of these debts thus sued for?—The debts which had been thus contracted by a youth, in my situation, during a period of about three years?—The paltry sum, not exceeding two hundred dollars! a sum, ten fold, nay much more than ten fold, to the amount of which I have since that time bestowed upon those, with whom I have met during my journey through life, in similar situations, embarrassed, or distressed,—without any other prospect of compensation, than the heart-felt delight of contributing to the happiness of my fellow-creatures, and the most grateful of sentiments to the Author of all good for thus enabling me to be, in those instances, his representative on earth!

Thus then it was, that with the full knowledge of my creditors, and with their full approbation—without one obstacle to impede---and with *their* best wishes, and the best wishes of my other friends and acquaintance, in that county, for my future success, I left Queen-Ann, where I had thus resided nearly the three first years after---I had, without a pilot or guide, embarked on the *untried* ocean of life.

Here then for *the present* I take leave of Queen-Ann, the inhabitants of which county I ever remember with pleasure and affection.

I now proceed "to a more *distant* place," though not quite "on the borders of the Pocomoke, from my late abode;"---To which place, though I had found it "expedient to *retire*" thereto, any person, who wished to have found me, might have arrived, without much difficulty, even in *one*

day,---in a day and a half, making it a mere *journey of pleasure*. [10]

I had been so short a time residing in Somerset that Messrs. Ramsay and Parker had not heard of my removal from Queen-Ann, when I received the following letter.

" *Colonel Henry's*, *May* 21, 1770.

" DEAR SIR,

" I last night received a very angry letter from Mr. Ramsay insinuating that I had intentionally disappointed the managers of that school and entered into other engagements, while a treaty with them was on foot.

This insinuation I must say is unjust, for I cannot apprehend, that in any particular of that transaction I gave the least room for supposition that I would keep myself in waiting for them.—But the purpose of this billet is not to vindicate myself, but to apprize you, that the gentlemen, in consequence of a hint from me, have determined to apply to you, and I wish, if it may be convenient, and consistent with the plan of conduct you have laid down for yourself, that you could be prevailed upon to oblige them. Perhaps, if you undertake but for a few months, till the gentlemen can elsewhere supply themselves, it might be sufficient to prevent the difficulties they apprehend. Their own letter will, I suppose, inform you of particulars.

I am, yours, &c.

EPHRAIM BRAVARD.

Mr. LUTHER MARTIN,
At Back-Creek.

10. There can be no doubt, the expressions used by Mr. Keene in his letter, page 50, was intended basely to insinuate, what he must have known to be false, " that I *wished to be concealed* from the knowledge of my former acquaintance in Queen-Ann.—Whereas nothing was of more publicity than the place to which I had removed,---It was on the same shore,---in the same province,---and where I might have been made answerable to the courts of justice, for any cause whatever, with nearly or quite as much ease, as if I had remained in Queen Ann.

But Mr. Keene expected his letter to be read by many, who know not the relative situation of places in Maryland ;---and it is only for those who are *ignorant of facts* that he writes !

This letter from Mr. B. was accompanied by the two letters following which were delivered me by a messenger, who had been sent with them from Virginia.

" *Accomack county, Virginia, May* 24, 1770.

" SIR,

" By the bearer you will receive a letter, in which you are informed that we are in want of a person to teach a Grammar School here.

If you agree to take the offer as mentioned, please send an answer per bearer, directed to James Henry, who will be at Snow-Hill, next week, and if, when you are here, you choose your salary should be collected by one hand, it shall be done.

I am, Sir,
Your most humble servant
GEORGE PARKER. [11]

Mr. LUTHER MARTIN,
Queen-Ann's county, Maryland."

" *Onancock, May* 24, 1770.

" SIR,

" I am about to leave my school and having been disappointed of a successor from Princeton,---and also of Mr. Bravard, I am directed to make application to you by Mr. B. who supposes it might be agreeable to you to accept of my place. My wages are at the lowest par of exchange seventy-eight pounds Maryland money, all good pay, and not varied by the number of scholars ;—the place agreeable and healthy. The school is situated in a small town, where the clerk's office is kept, and several other small advantages might be had in the study of the law, which I hear you are engaged in,—about five miles off the court house, where the courts are kept monthly. My time has been up two months, but, however, I would wait another month rather than the school should fall.—If you will please to accept you will be pleased with your situation, and if you do it immediately it will be to me a great favour, but if you will engage to come in

11. Father of the present George Parker, Esq. of the Eastern-Shore of Virginia.

a few weeks, you may depend on the place being secured.---We board as in Somerset school.

Your very humble servant,
And affectionate friend,
DAVID RAMSAY. [12]

Mr. LUTHER MARTIN,
Queen-Ann's."

To Colonel Parker I returned the following answer:

" SIR,

" I have just received your's of May the 29th, and should have been glad it had suited me to comply with your desire; but as it appears to me incompatible with the plan of life I have determined to pursue, I must decline it. I should be glad to inform you of any gentleman, who might have it both in his power and in his will, to oblige you, but I know of none.

I remain your most obedient servant,
LUTHER MARTIN.

Mr. GEORGE PARKER,
Accomack County, Virginia."

My answer to Mr. Ramsay was as follows:

" *Back-Creek, June* 2, 1770.

" SIR,

" I have just received your's of the 29th May,—and in answer shall only observe, that as to the plan of the school—situation of the place, and salary, I should have no particular objection to either;—but having determined to devote this year to the study of the law, to qualify myself for the practice, and having accordingly engaged lodgings, I cannot prevail upon myself to comply with your request.---I should be sorry should my refusal be of any injury to the school, at the same time, I cannot but think, according to my present view of things, it would be imprudent were I to act otherwise.

I remain, dear Sir,
Your's affectionately,
LUTHER MARTIN.

Mr. DAVID RAMSAY,
Onancock."

12. Doctor Ramsay of Charlestown, South-Carolina,—the author of the History of the American Revolution,—brother to Colonel Ramsay of Baltimore.

I thus decidedly refused accepting the charge of the Grammar School at Onancock, as being incompatible with the plan, I had formed for my future conduct; [13] But it being found impracticable to obtain, at that time, any other teacher—a personal interview took place between Mr. Ramsay, some of the trustees and myself, in consequence of which, from their importunity—from their representations of the advantages I might there enjoy for the acquisition of legal knowledge—and their assurance that they would, as soon as possible, endeavour to find me a successor,—I was prevailed on to remove from Somerset to Onancock and to take upon myself the temporary charge of the Grammar School at that place. The time of my thus removing was, I presume, about the last of June or the first of August, for in consequence of a few lines I had written, of which I kept no copy, giving information of my having at length consented to remove to Virginia, I received the following letter from the honourable John Leeds of Talbot county.

" *Talbot, August* 31, 1770.

" Dear Sir,

" I received your acceptable letter but have had *no opportunity till now to write to you.*—I am most sensibly affected with the kindness and affection you have shewn to the little stranger [14] so far removed from all his friends.—If ever

13. The following is an extract of a letter addressed to me by Waightstill Avery, Esq. of North-Carolina, dated at Salsbury, the 15th, of August, 1770—" Yours, of *May last*, now lies on the table before me, for which I thank you before I forget it, and I rejoice to hear that you have fixed yourself in a respectable family for a *year's* necessary and profitable study, in prosecuting this I wish you laborious perseverance.

There is an extraordinary good opening for a young lawyer in Edenton district, the most easterly part of this province, where, if your abilities for the practice of the law equal your abilities to acquire knowledge in the sciences, you might soon make an estate;—there I should have pushed in, but durst not venture my health; I thought it too much like Somerset, and therefore came out here into the west of the province, in a high, hilly country three or four hundred miles directly west of Edenton."

This may serve as a further proof of the determination I had made of devoting that year *solely* to the study of the law; and I had so early as in May, written to my friend Mr. Avery consulting him on the place of my future practice.

14. John Leeds Bozman, Esq. of Easton, between whom and myself there has continued an uninterrupted intimacy and friendship from that time —and who for several years past, has officiated as my deputy for Talbot and Caroline counties.

it should be in my power to make you amends for the trouble you have taken, you may be sure it will be a pleasure to me. I am sorry to hear your business calls you so far from him, however we must submit to the loss he will have in your absence.—Whenever you can, I hope you will shew him your usual tenderness.

I am, dear Sir,
With much esteem and friendship,
Your obliged friend and
Humble servant,
JOHN LEEDS. [15]

Mr. MARTIN."

I remained at Onancock superintendant of the Grammar School at that place until about the fourteenth day of October; when, by my letter book, I find the fall vacation having taken place, I left Accomack, called on my friends in Somerset and Talbot, and proceeded to Queen's-Town, to make arrangements for sending, from thence to Virginia, my trunks, which had till then remained in Queen-Ann.—— From that place I went on to Baltimore, and while there I waited upon Colonel Benjaming Young, who was then the deputy surveyor general of the province of Maryland, and as such had the apppointment of the deputy surveyors of the respective counties;—while with him he offered me the deputation for the county of Queen Ann, of which by a letter dated from Kent-Island, October 24th 1770, as I returned, I gave information to the then deputy surveyor.—The lettet was as follows:

" DEAR SIR,

" I left Colonel Young's yesterday, and am sorry to inform you that he designs to displace you.—Should you settle with him immediately, perhaps you may prevent it.—Your having neglected *that* is, I believe, his only complaint. He made me an offer of the commission you hold, which I declined,—I should but ill have requitted the kindness I re-

15. The late honorable John Leeds of Talbot county, who was then one of the judges of the provincial court, and had been one of lord Baltimore's commissioners for settling the lines between him and W. Penn, of their respective provinces—he was far advanced in life, and a gentleman of great knowledge and information—young as I was when an acqaintance commenced, I acquired his friendship and esteem, with which I was honored until his death.

ceived from you, while I lived in Queen-Ann had I done otherwise.

Your's, &c.

L. MARTIN.

Mr. JAMES EMORY
Deputy Surveyor,
of Queen-Ann."

And in a letter written by me, a few days, after, to a friend, to whom I mentioned Colonel Young's offer, I find this passage " my principle motive for declining it was, that the surveyor of that county was a person with whom I had a particular intimacy while I lived in that place ;—I could not endure he should have any reason to think me base enough to do him an injury.—No, if *I cannot get bread* without taking it *from the mouth of a friend*, let me *starve !*"

On my return, I spent near a week, in Talbot, with Mr. Leeds and his daughter, the mother of Mr. Bozman,—her son accompanied me as far as Back-Creek, to resume his studies ;—at which place I staid two days with my friends, and arrived at Onancock about the second of November, where I again resumed the care of the school, and the prosecution of my studies, until about the first of September in the year of our Lord, seventeen hundred and seventy one ; when I waited upon John Randolph, Esq. the then attorney-general of Virginia, and George Wythe, Esq. the present chancellor of that state, at Williamsburgh, and having undergone the examination required by the acts of assembly of that colony, I received a licence authorising me to practice law in the county courts throughout Virginia, and on the 24th of September, 1771, qualified in Accomack county.

It had been my design whenever I should obtain a licence, to fix my residence some where in the upper part of the Northern-Neck, or in parts still more westward in Virginia. And, at as early a period as possible, to make a tour throughout that part of the country to determine on the place: Accordingly having continued the prosecution of my studies until the month of April in the year 1772, I went to Williamsburgh where the general court was then sitting, and remained there until the end of its session,—during which time I formed an acquaintance with many very respectable characters, and

particularly with the gentlemen of the bar, who attended that court, among whom were the present judge of appeals and the present chancellor of Virginia,—John Blair, Esq. and the late Patrick Henry, John Tazewell, and Thompson Mason, Esqs. with the last of whom I had the pleasure of travelling from Williamsburg, as he returned home to his seat in Loudon county.—Having continued with that gentleman some days, and received from him the utmost politeness and hospitality.—I proceeded to Berkeley, in which county I remained ten or more days, much of that time in the family of colonel Samuel Washington, where I found all that kindness and those friendly attentions I had before experienced while at Mr. Masons. By Mr. Washington I was introduced to other gentlemen of the county, and, among others, to the late General Stevens, who obligingly furnished me with a letter to Colonel Frazer of Bedford; and one or both of those gentlemen gave me letters to Lord Fairfax—and to his nephew Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin.—In Frederick I spent several days, most agreeably, at his seat not far from Winchester, with colonel Martin, Lord Fairfax was not at home. Before we parted, it was settled that if I fixed on the western part of the Northern Neck for the sphere of my practice, I was to receive the appointment, under his lordship, of a surveyor for one of the counties, as soon as there should be a vacancy.—From Colonel Martin's I proceeded according to appointment, which while in Berkeley I had made with George Brent, Esq. [16] whom I had there seen, to meet him at Colonel Thomas Cresap's, in Old-Town, on a particular day—from which place I was to accompany him to Red-Stone and Fort-Pitt.

Mr. Brent and myself there met according to our agreement, and after having staid a few days with Colonel Cresap, and his son, Captain Michael Cresap, we departed for Red-Stone and Pittsburg;—our route was by Braddock's-Road, On this journey I had the pleasure of beholding Will's-Creek—Fort-Cumberland—the Little and the Big meadows, Fort-Necessity—Laurel-Hill, and the other parts of the Al-

14. This gentleman married the grand-daughter of col. Cresap, and the only child of Thomas Cresap, esq. who in an engagement between a party which he commanded, and the indians, killed the indian chief, and was killed by him.

leghany Mountains—Fort-Redstone—Braddock's-Fields—Fort-Du-Quense, with the Alleghany and Ohio rivers, and many other objects, of all which, during the war, when a little boy, I had heard and read so much.

While at Fort-Pitt, I spent my time most agreeably.—I recollect among those with whom I there became acquainted, Major Ward, Captain M'Kee, and the late Colonel George Croghan;—besides these there was, at that time, a garrison in the fort consisting of a detachment of the Royal Irish, of which many of the officers appeared to be polite and respectable men.

At Fort-Pitt, and the settlement in the neighbourhood of Red-Stone, I remained, I believe, upwards of three weeks.—On my return, I staid a day with Major Ennis at Fort-Cumberland—I then arrived at Old-Town, where I spent a few days with the two Mr. Cresaps,—the father and the son.—The kind attentions,---the friendly civilities, I on this journey received from that truly hospitable family, gave rise to that connexion, which eleven years after took place between them and myself,---and by which I became the happy husband of the amiable daughter of the *one*, and grand daughter of the *other*. [16]

The evening after I left Old-Town I reached the house of my fellow traveller, Mr. Brent, who had returned before me. With him I spent the next day, being Sunday; and on Monday I went to the Warm Springs, in Berkeley, from which Mr. Brent lived about six miles distant. At the Springs I found a great resort of company. There, for the first time, I became acquainted with many respectable characters, of both sexes, with whom I have ever since been in habits of friendly intimacy,---among others, I there, for the first time, after we had parted at Princeton, met with Mr. Clagett, the present right reverend Bishop of Maryland.---Six weeks I passed most happily at the Berkley springs, when, the season being nearly over, and, the company dispersing,

16. As Miss Cresap was returning home from Philadelphia, where she had been educated under Mrs. Brodeau, she made a short stay in Baltimore; accidentally hearing that a young lady of that name was in town, I originally waited upon her *solely* from the motive of in some measure repaying, by my attentions to a daughter of the family, the kindness and hospitality I had received from her parents and relations.—But for that circumstance, it is more than probable I should never have seen her.

I set my face homeward. As I passed through Loudon, I revisited Mr. Mason, and again for a few days partook of his friendly hospitality. As I came down the Potowmac, I viewed, for the only time in my life the Great falls. It was a little before sunset—The scene has never been effaced from my memory. I spent a day in Alexandria, it was the first time I had ever seen that city; from thence I crossed into Maryland, to visit Mr. Clagett, whom, before we parted at the springs, I had promised to see, on my return. From Maryland I again re-crossed the Potowmac, at Hoe's-Ferry, into Virginia. I had also promised Mr. Coulston, who left me at the Springs, that I would not pass through the Northern-Neck without waiting upon him. With him I spent a few days—and by him was introduced to several of his respectable friends and relations,—the late Rhodam Kenner, Esq. and the present Colonel Peachy I remember to be of the number.—In Westmoreland county I remained near a fortnight, in the family of the late John Augustine Washington, Esq. [17] at the mouth of Nominy. By him and his very amiable lady I was treated with all that parental affection, which hath endeared and ever will endear their memories to my heart.—From Nominy I passed down through Northumberland to Mr. Lee's, near Chesapeak. In that neighbourhood I had the pleasure of finding an old acquaintance,—Doctor Armstrong, who had been for some time a fellow student and class mate of mine at Princeton college. He was the son of General Armstrong, formerly of Pennsylvania, so celebrated for his bravery in the Indian wars, particularly against the Indian Captain Jacob.—At Mr. Lee's, and occasionally, with Doctor Armstrong, by whom I was also introduced to all their respectable friends, I remained two or three weeks, until a boat was ready to sail, bound to the *Easter-Shore* of Virginia, of which I availed myself, and returned to my former home about six months after I had left it;—than which, perhaps, no six months of my life ever bestowed upon me more pure and rational pleasure while passing—or when past, on reflection.

On my return, I found that events had during my absence,

17. The father of the honourable Bushrod Washington, one of the judges of the supreme court of the United States, the possession of whose friendship and esteem is to me a source of pleasure.

taken place, which totally changed my plan, and have given, to a great degree, a colour to the subsequent part of my life. Almost immediately after I had left the Eastern Shore, John Murray, Esq. son of Captain Murray of Somerset county, a lawyer of most promising talents, who practised in Somerset and Worcester counties, on his passage from Cambridge to Annapolis, lost his life by the boat's oversetting and filling. And before I returned George Handy, Esq. a lawyer of great respectability was dead—and Littleton Dennis, Esq. the very worthy and respectable father of the member for congress of that name, who was most eminent in his profession, was dead or dying ;—both these gentlemen practised in Somerset and Worcester counties, and the last of them had practised in Accomack.

The death of those three gentlemen, had made so great a change, and had left so fair a field for the exertion of legal abilities, that I suffered myself to be, by a few sanguine, partial friends, flattered into the hope, that I might enter thereon with some prospect of success !

I immediately commenced the practice of law in Accomack and Northampton, in Virginia, where the county courts were held monthly—and at the next ensuing November courts of Somerset and Worcester, where the courts were held four times a year, I applied, and was admitted as an attorney.

From that time I made my residence in Somerset and regularly attended the courts of those four counties, until the interruption of business, which took place in the early part of the revolution. At the time of that interruption my practice had become, nearly or quite, equal to a thousand pounds a year, with every prospect of encrease. The revolutionary measures, then thought necessary to be adopted, and which received my assent, not only in a great degree, cut me off from future business, but also deprived me of the benefits arising from the suits, in which I was then employed, by putting a stop to the completion of those suits. From that period, until the courts of justice were again opened, I was engaged in a variety of pursuits, some professional, and some of a different nature. I was occasionally employed in cases of admiralty jurisdiction---and in one or two important

appeals to the congress of the United States. [18] Soon as a court was established at Williamsburgh for criminal business, which was much sooner than they were organized for suits of a civil nature, I was the constant attendant on that court;—and devoting my time and attention to the criminal law, for the purpose of enabling me the better to defend those, who were accused; which I did most successfully; [19] I thereby acquired all that knowledge and information, which rendered me able the more effectually to prosecute and convict those, who were guilty of crimes, when it became my duty to become their prosecutor.

In the intermediate time and immediately after, having entered on the practice of the law, I became a resident of Somerset,—the trustees of Back-Creek school, who were among the most respectable gentlemen in that county, chose me without my solicitation, to fill a vacancy which happened in their number. And in the autumn of the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, while attending the courts in Virginia, I was by that portion of the inhabitants of Somerset, who approved the opposition to the claims of Great Britain, in my absence and without being consulted elected, not only a member of the committee for the county; but also one of their representatives to the convention, which was held at Annapolis in the month of December following; which convention I attended.

My firm and decided support of the opposition to the unwarrantable claims of Great-Britian, which caused our revolution, is well known,—and that at a time when, and in a place where, it indeed "tried men's souls"—for there was a period of considerable duration, throughout which, not only myself, but many others, acting in the same manner, did not lay down one night on their beds, without the hazard of waking on board a British armed ship, or in the other world.

18. Particularly in one for James Ingram, Esq. of Williamsburgh—son of the once provost of Glasgow college, in which I not only procured him, upon the appeal to congress, a decree for the restitution of his property, but afterwards attended court with him at Williamsburgh and saw it restored to him.

19. To the best of my recollection, I was counsel at that court for thirty criminals, of whom twenty-nine were acquitted—the thirtieth charged with murder was convicted of manslaughter. I also procured the judgment to be arrested in the case of captain Davis, who had once been the servant of General Washington, and who was by the jury found guilty of treason.

Notwithstanding which I can say without fear of contradiction, my conduct to those, whom, from the political state of the country, I was obliged to counteract and oppose, was so free from any thing like wanton insult, personal enmity, rancour or malignity, that instead of finding at this period a personal enemy in their number, I received from them proofs of esteem and regard.

When the Howes were on their way to the Chesapeak, they published a manifesto or proclamation particularly addressed to the inhabitants of that part of the United States, against which they were then directing their operations.—The answer to which address directed to the Howes, as also an address [20] to the inhabitants of the Peninsula between Delaware River Bay and the Chesapeak to the southward of the British lines, and distributed among them in hand-bills, were from my pen.

On the eleventh day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, is dated the commission by which I have holden to this time the office of Attorney-General of this state.—The express, by which it was sent, found me in Accomack, very busily engaged in directions to artificers, who were employed in the erection of works for manufacturing salt,---So little did I expect to receive that appointment ;—which was bestowed upon me without solicitation.

I qualified as Attorney-General in the criminal court of Baltimore county, on the twentieth day of May in the same year, and almost immediately after moved to Baltimore-Town, in which or its vicinity I have ever since resided.

From the time I left Queen-Ann until my arrival in Baltimore, I found in the worthy and hospitable Levin Gale, Esq. and his highly esteemed and respectable lady, kind and affectionate parents ; and scarce ever did a young man, perhaps, receive with more delight a proof of esteem and confidence more dear to his heart, than when they placed under my care, to be instructed in the law, their eldest son a few years younger than myself—that son who at this time lives in Cecil county, and is in the number of my friends, and, who has with honour served both this state and the United States in the most respectable appointments they could bestow upon him.

20. This was published in Dunlap's Maryland Gazette of September 9, 1777.—The other was published in Goddard's paper about the same time.

One of the first acts I did after I received my commission was to send a letter to Robert Wright, Esq. who had just entered into the practice of the law, requesting him to inform me in what counties he attended, and whether it would be agreeable to him to accept deputations from me to prosecute in those courts: in consequence of his answer, I appointed him my deputy for the counties of Kent, Queen-Ann, and Talbot. His respectable father, who was afterwards one of the judges of our court of appeals, did me the honour to accept a deputation for Caroline county.

Be this a proof whether my heart is formed for ingratitude—or likely in the hour of prosperity to forget those who, in the days of adversity had shewn to me civilities and kindness, much less those, had any such been, who should have, to their loss or expence, conferred on me great and essential services.—Be this also a proof whether while I lived in Queen-Ann my conduct was ever such as ought to have excited a blush in my cheeks or the cheeks of my friends,—or whether I left Queen-Ann on account of any such conduct. Nay more, whether the conduct was of such a nature that, even to" state" it should cause a blush on the bronze face of —— I need no term of reproach other than—that of Richard Raynall Keene, Esquire. [21]

Had such been my conduct, had I left Queen-Ann dishonored or disgraced would gentlemen of such respectability of character, with full knowledge of the fact, thus sanction my appointment to so an important an office, by being the first to receive appointments under me ! !

Would the honourable Mr. Leeds have given me those proofs of his friendship and esteem, had infamy attached to me while in Queen-Ann,—nay, should I have been admitted into the number of his acquaintance,—and can it be believed that living at so short a distance, he should have remained all that time in ignorance of my conduct had any part of it warranted the base insinuation.

We well know slander and defamation fly on swift wings and enlarge as they proceed in their flight—what magic power should arrest them in their course and prevent their arrival at the short distance where I had taken up my residence.--If in Somerset county it had been known that I

21. " I blush to state the cause."——Page 50, of Keene's Letter to Luther Martin, Esq.

had forfeited " the post of honour and profit by"—any conduct which an honest man ought—much more which Keene ought, to blush to *state*," and that I had there taken refuge from contempt and disgrace, should I have there been received with those civilities, those attentions—that esteem and respect, which were bestowed upon me at the first, and continued to me while I lived in those parts of the state—Nay, would such a family as Mr. Gale's have received me into it, almost in the character of a child, and selected such a man so stained with dishonour to whose care to entrust a beloved son!

Besides the honourable Mr. Wright and his father, whom I have already mentioned, among those who have been my deputies, I can name the honourable Joshua Seney, William Potts, William Polk, William Dennis, Davidson David, and William Craig—and Henry Waggaman, John Scott, Walter Dorsey, Joshua Dorsey, and John Allen Thomas, Esquires, all of which gentlemen have served the public either as members of the council—judges—representatives of the state or United States, or as senators of this state or the United States ;—and some of them in several of those offices,—beside several other respectable lawyers of great merit in private character and in their profession.—Of all those, I am well assured not one ever suspected that the man, under whom they held their appointments, had thirty two years past " forfeited the post of honour and of profit and found it expedient to retire" the immense distance of a day or a day and a half's ride for " a cause," which Richard Raynall [22] Keene, Esq. should blush to state.

Here let me mention, that long—long, before I was appointed Attorney General of this state, nay even before the beginning of that revolution to which I was indebted for it, I had paid every of my creditors in Queen-Ann the whole of the debts I owed them, with my thanks for that indulgence I had received from them.

But those debts and my incapacity to pay them is not the cause to which Mr. Keene *means* should be attributed my

22. I woder where he got the name of *Raynall*—His father, in his will, calls him Richard Keene—Had he ever been in Europe I should suppose the old infidel Abbey might have given him *his name*, with a heathenish blessing accompanied by the imposition of hands as we are told the arch infidel Voltaire did to a son or grandson of the old infidel Franklin.

departure from Queen-Ann, and my removal to Somerset. This must be evident, when it is considered that, the man, who boasts that his mother was *sister* of Dr. Edward Harris, whom we well know to be wealthy, and for whose respectability we have even so high an authority as Mr. H—r, [23] and aunt of the present wife of the late Governer, of Delaware, whom also we know to be more wealthy,——who, independent of other near relations of less note, had also a reverend uncle, whose *superior merit* would long since have made him a Bishop had it not been for his *yet superior modesty*; [24] and who for the last twelve years of his life could afford to perform to his parish all the duties of their pastor "gratuitously."—The man who had a good education and was much more advanced in years than I was when I entered on life,—and who, under these circumstances, thus related to wealth, merit and influence, all within his reach—could receive from a stranger, to whom he was connected by no ties, the benefit of a law library, his boarding, lodging, even his washing and mending bestowed upon him gratuitously, as he said his uncle preached to his parishioners, for such a length of time, and yet for his other necessities receive and borrow money from all who would lend him, many of those also totally unconnected with him, to an amount much more than were all the debts I contracted in an equal length of time, dependant solely on my own exertions for my natural and artificial wants, and for my future station in life in a *distant* province, which I entered without a friend and in which I had not a relative—such a man could never suppose that, if my incapacity to pay the debts I had thus contracted had caused my departure from Queen-Ann and my removal to Somerset, it could be suspected by the public he alluded thereto, when he declared that he "*blushed* to state *the cause*" of that removal. Nor could it be ever conceived that *such a man* could possibly become at *any age*, much less at so early an age so *lost* to all sense of decency—so *unparralleledly impudent* as to declare to the public that *he* thought, to state *such a cause* for *my conduct* ought to cause *him* "*to blush*," on *my* account I mean, whatever it might on *his own!!*

23. See note to page 4, of No. I.

24. See the extract from Keene's Letter in this No. page 122.

It must be still more evident, when we examine the sentence to which I allude and the *emphatic* words :—

" You entered into your establishment, but alas! it became expedient for you to retire. And thus was forfeited *not* " the roof of hospitality" by a *chaste amour*" but the post of honour; and of profit by —— I blush to state the cause."

No person can doubt but that he here meant to insinuate, the cause of my leaving the county was some conduct much more aggravated than any breach of hospitality which could be experienced from an unprincipled fortune hunter, in the prosecution of an amour with a child, however incapable or unsuitable to make a proper choice, however destructive to her future prospects—and however introductive to misery in her family, provided the amour was " *chaste*"—Nor can it be doubted but that he meant to impose on the public mind by this base innuendo, that there had been some instance of my conduct so peculiarly wicked and profligate that a respect for common decency required its suppression ;—that the paper ought not to be stained therewith ;—nor the eye of modesty be insulted ?—What else did he suppose must be considered as meant from these his expressions accompanied with the Hiatus, " by —— I blush to state the cause."

Or what else could *he* suppose must, if they in the least respected the insinuation, be inferred by those, who, in reading that letter, had received such abundant proof, that there could be no act of common depravity, " to state" which could possibly cause him to " blush" ?

Before I again take my leave of Queen-Ann, I must stop a few moments to answer some of his queries respecting his good old Patriarchal uncle and myself. " Did the man" says he, meaning that uncle, " whom you considered your benefactor, reproach or upbraid you with a breach of confidence ?—Nay verily he did not. He would have been one of the most unreasonable men in the creation had he done either the one or the other; for in no instance did I ever violate his confidence, nor did he at any time, or in any instance make me the depository of his confidence so as thereby to have put it in my power to have thus injured him, even if I had been so unprincipled.—And as to friendship none ever subsisted between us, from which to spurn me, except the mutual reciprocation of politeness and civilities, when we occasionaly met, which was but seldom, by reason of the

great distance we resided from each other.—And never did I give him the slightest cause for the termination of that politeness or those civilities.

That the reverend Mr. Keene was in no other respect *my benefactor* than in having conscientiously discharged a public duty which *cost him* nothing, I have already shewn ; and if such conduct towards me entitles the uncle to be called *my benefactor*, *what* have *I been* to the Nephew ?

But so far was the good old Patriarch from thus spurning or reproaching me, that Mr. Keene tells us, *he*, on the contrary, humanely, kindly, and generously, offered me a home in his family, as long as I might choose, with a salary of thirty pounds a year, on the terms of my taking on myself the charge of instructing one of his little nephews,—seeing he had no child himself.

At this distance of time I do not recollect the circumstance,—a proof how little I felt myself interested therein.—But I am inclined to think there is some truth in what he has stated concerning this *offer*. Nay to read Mr. Keene's glowing representation of this transaction, one would almost fancy that he saw me seated *inside* of the latch of the good old Patriarch's door,—the little Nephew conning over his lesson not far from my side—and myself counting and recounting the immense sum of thirty pounds, did not he read at the beginning of the next paragraph, " you deemed it however expedient to decline this offer."

That I did decline the offer will not be surprising to any person, who *knew me* then, or have *known me* since.—What folly—what madness would it have been for *me* to have been wasting year after year of the prime of *my* life, " in a recluse country place," engaged in the *important imployment* of giving " instructions to *one of his little Nephews*," even though during that time I might have the superlative happiness to look " into the recesses of the reverend gentleman's private life" —to behold him " smiling in benignity" even on myself, " amidst the groupe of surrounding objects," and enforcing by his example those precepts of virtue and religion," which had been indeliably engraven on my heart long before I knew such a person existed ;—and might also enjoy all the advantages to be derived " in those times" from the reception of " thirty pound a year," which, of however " considerable account" it might be, would not have been sufficient for my wardrobe.

My object was as hastily as possible to enter upon that profession, to which I had looked up as the mean of discharging those debts I had contracted—of becoming myself independent—of acquiring consequence in life,—and the ability not only of returning the benefits I had received, but also of conferring them myself on the worthy and deserving who might need my assistance, whenever I should find them.

And so firmly had I decided that no consideration whatever should interfere with the favourite plan I had formed for that purpose, that it was with great reluctance, as the reader hath seen, that I was, after a deliberate refusal, at length prevailed on to undertake the instruction of a few scholars, not in "a recluse country place" but in a pleasant little town near the court house—where the clerk's office was kept,—where I had not only my board, lodging, washing, &c. free from expence, but a salary of seventy-eight, instead of thirty pounds a year—with this most important of distinctions, that in so doing I was considered by the parties interested, not as receiving, but as actually conferring a very high obligation!

But surely he who offers a favour however disinterested or generous the offer, if the favour is not accepted, is repayed by the *thanks* of the person meant thereby to be benefited.—As to myself and his uncle, even Keene declares that, though I "deemed it expedient to decline the offer," it was not without even *boundless thanks* for his kindness and liberality"—Then I *overpaid* him for that offer!

Just God! Mr. Keene, because his uncle made an offer of services, which might be on his part well meant, but which were beneath my acceptance, and which offer was repaid by me, as he himself admits, "with boundless thanks," holds me as having thereby incurred to that uncle a never ceasing debt of unbounded gratitude and represents me as the most ungrateful of wretches, because forsooth he has understood I mentioned among a few friends, a notorious fact, that this uncle wished to have obtained the guardianship of Miss H. with a view, as then reputed, of forwarding the fortune hunting schemes of his younger brother!—What then ought he to think of himself,—who, from me, for years did *actually receive* favours vastly more important than any, which, according to his own statement, his uncle ever even offered to me,—and who, in return not merely amused him-

self in stating some trifling foible in my conduct or character, which were strictly consistent with truth—but, while for the purpose of assailing my reputation he has called to his aid all the powers of falsehood—has also deliberately and systematically availed himself of the youth and ignorance of a beloved child, to make her, who ought to have strewed flowers in my path & bestowed on the most affectionate of parents the purest bliss, the unhappy source from whence the future cup of my life is to be filled with the bitterness of misery! ! But for all this he has greatly and amply atoned !—Do you ask in what manner?—By the unwearied assiduity—by the unexampled zeal, by the incredible exertions he has displayed in the endeavour to supply the defects of all, who have gone before him, by groping through the dark regions of antiquity, in search of some long concealed blot, by which he might consign to dishonour and disgrace that benefactor on whose bounty he so long existed! ! And when he found truth and facts obstinately opposing this favourite hope of his malignant soul, by boldly substituting fiction and falsehood in their stead! !—By this truly fiend-like exploit—this exploit only suited to a heart *like his*, he has, in his own opinion, not only completely atoned for every impropriety of his conduct towards myself and those to me most dear, but also entirely effaced and obliterated every, even the faintest, trace of that obligation, if ever he could be supposed to be under an obligation to me!! [1]

Having now enabled the reader to judge whether the reverend Mr. Keene was ever my benefactor—and whether I have ever been justly chargeable with ingratitude towards

1. On the slightest investigation of Keene's charge against me, that his uncle had been my benefactor and that I had treated that uncle with unheard of ingratitude, it must appear totally unfounded and vanish away "like the baseless fabric of a dream"—Is it not then almost beyond conception that he could have the impudence to conclude that subject of his Letter, by saying "and yet *you* upbraid *me* with ingratitude!—Alas! frail man, how readily you descry and criticise the motes in the eyes of thy brother, while beams are lodged within thy own"—or in plain language—"Thus have I proved that your conduct to my uncle has been so much more aggravatedly base than any thing, with which you have attempted to charge me, that on a review, your criminality placed in comparison with mine, must be as a hugh beam compared to a little mote."—But Keene doth not write for those who, he supposes, will read both sides of the question.—He does not write even for those who, he believes, will reflect and compare; hence he sets all consistency and propriety at defiance.—He writes only to gratify the blackest malignity of heart, and to catch unthinking fools of *both* sexes.

him—Having enabled him also to determine whether the impropriety of my conduct towards the uncle is to be considered as a huge massy beam in mine own eye, while the wrongs I have received from his Nephew are only comparatively to be considered, as a diminutive mote in the eye of that Nephew, I shall now resume the offer which, as Mr. Keene declares, his uncle made to me,—for the purpose of drawing therefrom an irresitable proof of the infamous falsehood of the charge he has thus darkly introduced against me.

Would this good, this venerable, this pious, this religious servant of the Most High select as the object of his particular benefactions—as the person to whom he delighted to shew repect and honour—would he solicit the domestication, within the sanctity of his household, of an abandoned wretch, who at so early an age, had shewn himself so depraved—so unprincipled,—so lost to all sense not only of that holy religion, the pure precepts of which it was the business of his life to enforce and inculcate, but of even that morality, which was gloried in by many of the more virtuous heathen—and of that decency necessary to distinguish the gentleman and obtain admission in respectable society—as to have forfeited the post of honour and profit, to which his too credulous humanity and benevolence had assisted to introduce him—by a cause "to state" which ought to excite a blush of shame or indignation ! ! Nay more, would he have searched among all his numerous friends and acquaintances—for the friends and acquaintance of such a sainted personage could not but have been numerous,—would he have passed over all the worthy and good,—and selected a wretch so blasted, as the man whom he would prefer to teach the young idea how to shoot—to pour instructions into the infant mind—of his little son [2] had he been so blest; for want of that blessing,—of one of his little Nephews ! ! [3]

2. "On the terms of your rendering occasional instructions to one of his little nephews—seeing he had no children himself."—Extract from Keene's Letter, page 122, of this number.—He therefore only substituted the *Nephew*, because he had not a *son*.

3. It may possibly be suggested that at the time when the uncle made me this offer he was ignorant of this blush—exciting criminality of my conduct;—but Keene's publication precludes the possibility of such a subterfuge.—For if the old gentleman knew not how incorrectly I had acted—if he knew not my guilt, what merit can be assumed for him, because he did not "*reproach* and *upbraid* me,"—nor "spurn me from his friendship?" But on the contrary, *instead* of thus acting, invited me to come and live in his family, &c."

The reason why I gave to Somerset county a preference as the place of my residence during the year which I had determined to devote to the acquisition of legal knowledge I have already explained [4]—I might, notwithstanding the debts I had contracted there, have remained in Queen-Ann, had I chose it.—It was not to elude the pursuit of my creditors that I left the last place. The same arrangements which I made to enable me to go where I did, enabled me to stay where I was, had I thought it most advantageous.

To all who have witnessed the affectionate respect and attention I universally receive, and ever have received, when on the *Eastern Shore*;—with almost every worthy family residing whereon, from Cecil county to the Capes of Virginia, I have long been acquainted, no arguments need be urged to convince them, that no part of my conduct, at *any time*, while I resided there, had been thought base or dishonourable.—But as the time and place of the unknown infamy is *confined* to *Queen-Ann*, and *antecedent* to my removal therefrom—to the inhabitants of that county, who were then living, and, who *then knew me*, I will make my appeal—With the Tilghmans, Earls, Wrights, Courceys, Emorys, Downes, Carradines, Garnets, Hoppers, Nicholsons, Phiddimans, Bruffs, Kents, Hawkins's, Thomas's, Dames, Bordleys, Claytons, Jacksons, Halls, Blakes, Chathams, Bryans, Browns, Seneys, and many other respectable families in that county, I became acquainted immediately on my settling there and have been acquainted with them and their descendants ever since.

With some of these who are yet living I was in habits of great intimacy; particularly with Mr. William Bruff, now of this city, who then resided in Queen-Ann, who has served his country as a member of the council of safety for the Eastern-Shore, during the revolution, and since that time for some years as speaker of the house of assembly, and with Cols. Kent and Phiddiman and Mr. Dames.

Of young gentlemen, who were under my care while I taught the Free-school, who are now fathers of families and living, I recollect the names of Messrs. William Tilghman, Edward Coursey, Henry Coursey, Thomas Lane Emory,

4. See page 139.

Gideon Emory, Francis Rozier, William Keene, [5] and Colonel Samuel Wright. [6]

To each and every of these gentlemen I appeal, whether they ever knew or heard of any instance of my conduct while I lived in Queen-Ann, base or dishonourable—whether they ever knew or heard of any cause for my leaving that county, to state which ought to excite a blush in the cheek of any man. If they do, I pray them in justice to Mr. Keene to proclaim it to the world, and save him from so black a portion of infamy as must otherwise fall upon him.

On the contrary, if they only knew in me the usual foibles and errors of a youthful, generous, unsuspecting heart—If I possessed their respect and esteem at that time—If I have by my subsequent conduct, shewn that I deserved it,—and have secured to me its continuence for the period of thirty-two years, which have since elapsed,—then will they, I have no doubt, whenever they hear the charge, mentioned, which Keene has thus insinuated against me, declare it to be *false* and *malicious*—the *base offspring* of *rancourous, revengeful, malignity.*

And now before I conclude let me ask,—what is it to the great question between Mr. Keene and myself, whether thirty-two years past, I left Queen-Ann for conduct to state which should cause *him* to *blush*—or which might *justly cover me* with *disgrace.*

Could he shew me to be the blackest villain on earth—The Ferdinand Count Fathom of Smollet,—the Sir Charles Sindall of Mackenzie, or the Zeluco of Moore, or a still greater devil incarnate than either, if such could be,—would it recall *or* annihilate the time past? would it blot out the transactions of that period—would it lessen the benefits he has received from my hand? would it palliate the deliberate system of falsehood and treachery which he adopted towards

5. Another Nephew of the Reverend Samuel Keene's, and first cousin of the subject of my address. This gentleman and myself lived some time together, while he was under my instruction, in the same family—we have occasionally met since, and from him I have received every mark of esteem. If he is living, as I believe he is—I have no doubt should he see his relations letter addressed to me, he would view it with astonishment and detestation.

6. He was an officer during the revolutionary war—since that time has been one of the council of this state—and is now clerk of the county court Queen-Ann.

me? would it be an attonement for his destruction of that happiness, which, but for him, I should yet have enjoyed in the *highest* degree?—or an excuse, much less a justification for his black ingratitude towards me?

And now, having in this number, sketched the history of so much of my life as appeared necessary the more, fully to efface the infamous insinuation contained in Keenes Letter, and just given the outline thereof; I here *throw down* my *pencil.*

Infernal malignity, do *thou* take *it* up—*complete the picture* and *welcome*—let *only* the *hand of truth* be *its* guide.

L. MARTIN.

In page one hundred and twenty-six, I have introduced the initials of a name, which brought to my mind sensations I could not entirely suppress.—I wish not to be mistaken,—I dot mean that any unfortunate events in the life of that amiable lady were owing to the second marriage of her mother. I do not know that to be the case.

From the manner I have here introduced the name of the Reverend Samuel Keene, some persons perhaps may think I wish to hold him up to contempt.—It is not so.—Though I could not but treat with ridicule the bombastic panegyric bestowed by Keene on a man, whom I do not believe he respects as much as I do—I will notwithstanding do justice to that gentleman, and acknowledge that, while I am far from thinking him a character without faults, yet I have considered him, as far as I have known him, worthy and meritorious. And so far from having been forgetful of the little favours or attentions, which I, in my youth, received from him, which, though they cost him nothing, yet gave pleasure and a degree of consequence to a young man among strangers, it is certain that the remembrance thereof had some influence in my offer to receive into my office and to my table a man, who, from his name and place of birth I supposed to be his relation, though I knew not in what particular manner—I have been most amply rewarded ! !

L. M.

ERRATA.

Page 152, last line but two in the 2d paragraph, between "River Bay" read and.

154, instead of "*Dennis*" read Digges.—Same page, 9th line, 2d paragraph, for "*the*" read this.—Same line, after "*or*" read the.

155, line 20, for "*said*" read says.

156, 10th line from the bottom, after the word "*confidence*" read or spurn you from his friendship.

JAN 5 1944